

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Great Carlton Village Hall and via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 15th June 2022.

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

* *Present*
v *Attended virtually*

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

* *In attendance*
v *Attended virtually*

The Chairman introduced Messrs M. Denby and T. Farrow who were attending to get an overview of how the Board worked. He further introduced members to Dr D. Hickman, the Executive Officer who would be working closely with the Chief Executive and initially focusing on managing the output and delivery of Engineering projects. The Internal Auditor was also present to give his annual report.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T. Ashton, S. Dennis, W. Parkinson and P. Rickett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1640 to 1651)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Page 1642, Minute 8 - Operations Report. Mr D.R. Tagg queried progress on the alternative used for the crane pad at Wainfleet. The Chief Executive commented that the Parish Council had asked for the area to be left so a walk could be set up and the area used for recreation. The Foreman confirmed that the stone base had been left in place as requested by the Parish Council.

Page 1651, Minute 20, Any Other Business. The Chairman queried if there had been any response from the Section 151 officer, Mr S.W. Eyre commented that Council members should if possible support the continued liaison with East Lindsey District Council by Officers. The Chief Executive was keen to engage with the Councils and would be approaching East Lindsey District Council about possible land purchase on Manby Park.

RECEIVED

6. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that the Consortium continued to follow Government guidance and implement any additional measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees. Numbers in the office were slowly increasing although the option to continue to work from home was available where practical.

There had been two incidents in the Lindsey Marsh Board area since the last meeting, neither involving any injury and both minor in nature.

The annual review of the Health and Safety Policy, Safe Systems of Work and Model Task Risk Assessments would be undertaken in July with any issues brought to the attention of the Senior Management Team and the Health and Safety Committee.

RECEIVED

7. OPERATIONS REPORT

7:1 Winter Maintenance Works

The Senior Operations Manager reported that 82% of the winter works programme had been completed and Officers were confident that work would be completed before the summer weedcutting season.

The proposed winter works programme currently totalled 21,038 meters, however, it was expected that three or four watercourses, totalling 4km, would be added following condition assessments.

The channel of the Cowbank Drain had narrowed with the adjacent road starting to subside and break up. Approximately 70m of toe piling works had been carried out to repair the watercourse.

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7:2 Summer Maintenance Works

Inspections and repairs of plant were being carried out before the start of the cutting season. Various repairs had been undertaken in-house to minimise costs as part of the ongoing efficiency review.

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7:3 Construction Works

Lagoons C and D on the Steeping River Relief Channel were being dismantled. The silt was being moved to aid the drying out process before spreading could take place after harvest.

Work on Willoughby East flood relief scheme had commenced with 100m of 350m completed and Officers were in contact with local landowners and £20,000 of local levy funding had been approved by the Environment Agency. The total budget for the scheme was £50,000 with works expected to be completed before the start of the summer cutting season.

RECEIVED

7:4 Rechargeable Works

Flailing works in Mablethorpe had been completed for East Lindsey District Council.

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7:5 Environment Agency (EA) Works

A list of watercourse maintenance to be completed under the Public Sector Co-Operation Agreement had been received. The programme only included four watercourses, lower than the usual eight. It was believed that the EA was looking to increase the use of their own framework contractors.

In response to Mr D.R. Tagg the Chief Executive confirmed that he was not contacted by the EA about the reduction. However, Officers would monitor the condition of the watercourses usually maintained by the Board as they would impact its systems if not operating effectively, e.g. Lady Wath Beck and Cowcroft. The Chief Executive would discuss this with the EA.

RECEIVED

7:6 Plant and Equipment

(a) General update

The new Case excavator had arrived and was working well.

Officers recently tendered for the sale of plant the disposal proceeds received were 20t Larrington Trailer (2001) £9,000, 8t Fraser Dump Trailer £1,250 and Abei Terratrac TT50 Mower (2000) £834.17.

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(b) 4x4 Replacements

Options for the replacement of the Foreman's 4x4 (written off), 4x4 fuel truck (beyond economic repair), Land Rover (previously stolen) and construction Land

Rover were presented. Officers recommended that these be replaced by four pick-up trucks.

Officers had initially expected the new vehicles to cost around £24,000 and had sought quotations in line with the Board's Financial Regulations, however, of the four companies invited to submit quotations two were not currently taking orders. The remaining two quotations were above the £25,000 tender threshold in the Board's policy as the lower specification models had been withdrawn from production. Manufacturers were also only guaranteeing prices for 14 days. Due to increasing costs, Officers requested a variation from the Financial Regulations.

Officers recommended that the Board purchase four Toyota Hilux at a cost of £107,888; this was estimated to be £15,288 over budget (depending on the amount received for the sale of the two Land Rovers and would need to be taken from the Board's reserves. Officers reported that £7,500 had been returned to reserves in May 2020 following the insurance settlement for the Land Rover FX09 ZXW. The Toyota Hi-Lux was the cheapest option, offered the longest warranty and shortest scheduled delivery date. The Senior Operations Manager commented that the Hook Loader trailer had removed the need for increased towing capacity on 4x4 vehicles.

In response to Mr R.H. Needham the Senior Operations Manager confirmed that vacancies within the team, use of hire vehicles and loan of a vehicle from Trent Valley IDB had allowed Officers to manage without one vehicle since May 2020. He further confirmed that quotations had been sought for a lower specification vehicle but these were no longer in production. In response to Mr S.W. Eyre, he confirmed the specification included towbars.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon supported the proposal commenting that it was a very good deal.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the purchase of four Toyota Hilux pick-up trucks from Listers Toyota at a cost of £107,888, less trade-in; the additional cost to be funded from reserves.

(c) Excavator Replacement

The Caterpillar 329 tracked excavator was due for replacement in line with the Board's policy. Seven manufacturers had been invited to tender but only three tenders returned.

Officers recommend the purchase of the Hitachi ZX300LC at a cost of £225,913 (£285,913 less trade in of approximately £60,000) which was £24,087 under budget. This included a ditching bucket, X Watch 5 System, GPS and five-year 7,000 hour warranty. The Hitachi was the closest match in terms of the options that were requested at the time of tendering, it also represented the best value for money when comparing the costs of the additional options. They also had their own bespoke build team.

Officers had been notified that a global manufacturer's price increase of up to 10% was expected in September 2022 which would be applied to all existing orders. It was therefore likely to affect the final invoice price. Hitachi expected their increase to be in the region of 5% but Officers requested that delegated authority be given to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to

approve an additional spend of up to 10%, should it occur, with the additional funds being taken from the remaining budget and the plant reserve.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon queried if the Board needed to look further forward regarding purchases given the current lead times. The Senior Operations Manager reported that Officers had tried to combine purchases to achieve discounts but had at most been offered 1% but were looking to bring forward ordering of machines to mitigate delays.

Mr Pridgeon commented that the Board's replacement policy was seven years and extending this may result in large bills. The Chief Executive stated that to get ahead of purchases would require two in one year. The Senior Operations Manager stated that tenders could be sought and then this be considered by the Board.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve the purchase of a Hitachi ZX300LC at a net cost of £285,913 less trade in of approximately £60,000.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to approve additional spending on the tracked excavator of up to 10% if required.

7:7 Rainfall

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

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8. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £4,204.61 was presented for approval; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy. A total of £30,484.29 had been paid since April 2021.

RESOLVED

That the compensation payments made since the last meeting totalling £4,204.61 be approved.

9. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Civils Project Engineer gave the following updates:

9:1 Coastal Pumping Stations Refurbishment - Trusthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells and Saltfleet (LM19351, LM19304, LM20305 and LM20306)

Following requests for extensions, the return date for the civils works tenders at Saltfleet and Trusthorpe Pumping Stations had been extended to 13th April 2022. Of the six invited only two returned tenders. The two returned tenders were adjudicated, and the amounts were significantly over the planned budget.

Contractors were invited to attend a meeting with the Tender Review and Award Committee, previously approved by the Board, on 20th April 2022 and made a brief presentation on their company and how they planned to safely execute the civils works

and deliver the programme of civils works. Following the presentations, both contractors were asked to provide additional information for review by the Committee.

The Committee met again on the 3rd May 2022 to review the additional information and revised tender submission and unanimously decided to appoint JN Bentley as the preferred bidder for the contract at a total cost of £2,888,649.67 consisting of Saltfleet Pumping Station £1,336,785.85, Trusthorpe Pumping Station £474,824.72, Gents Canal Water Intake £605,378.97 and Gents Canal to Mardyke Connection £471,660.14. They were formally awarded the contract by letter dated the 17th May 2022. Discussions were ongoing with the Environment Agency for additional flood defence grant-in-aid to bridge the gap between the original planned amounts and the contract award with a suitable contingency for the construction phase. The Chairman commented that the contractor had given the Committee complete confidence that they could deliver.

In response to Mr T.H. Heys the Civils Project Engineer stated that Officers were in discussion with the contractor regarding timescales and scheduling of the work. Mr Heys emphasised the importance of keeping to the timescales because the temporary pumping arrangement capacity was less than the stations. The Civils Project Engineer assured members that delivery would be monitored closely. Provisional figures for Saltfleet were £3,548,933 FDGiA and £862,969 Board compared to the original budget of £2,416,475 FDGiA and £582,346 Board. At Trusthorpe £1,263,692 FDGiA and £586,000 Board compared to the original budget of £551,450 FDGiA and £586,000 Board.

The FCERM4 for each station had been provisionally submitted for review and it was proposed that the additional Board funding for Saltfleet totalling £299,309.37 be transferred from other budgets which would be detailed in the Finance report.

Quotations for the supply and installation of a new transformer at Trusthorpe Pumping Station had been sought from three suitable suppliers. Officers recommended that an order be placed with ESM Power at a cost of £34,183.

The Civils Project Engineer reported that the unit was hermetically sealed requiring no maintenance and had an expected working life of around 40 years. In response to Mr P.W. Pridgeon he confirmed this was not guaranteed.

Costs to date were:

- (a) Saltfleet committed expenditure of £3,981,006.51 against the total scheme cost of £4,411,900,
- (b) Trusthorpe committed expenditure of £1,421,277.36 against the total scheme cost of £1,849,692,
- (c) Ingoldmells committed expenditure of £30162.71 against the total scheme cost of £2,235,000,
- (d) Anderby committed expenditure of £44,963.85 against the total scheme cost of £2,187,751.

Estimated scheme costs had increased across all four projects with additional contingencies now allowed in Ingoldmells and Anderby. These additional costs were being sought through FDGiA and an update would be provided at a future Board meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve the Committee's actions in appointing the contractor and the additional scheme funding as detailed above.
- (b) That an order for the procurement and install of a new transformer at Trusthorpe Pumping Station be placed with ESM Power at a cost of £34,183.

9:2 Covenham Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM19300)

Inter-Lec Limited was undertaking the installation of two new pumps and an electrical control panel at a cost of £32,539.50.

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9:3 Emergency Pump Repairs - (LM21302)

(a) Fulstow East Pumping Station

The single suspended bowl pump which suffered severe noise and vibration had been repaired and reinstalled. The cost for lifting the pump, inspection, overhaul and repair was £12,604.

(b) Wainfleet Sea Lane Pumping Station

Pump two had a suspected blockage and pump one had developed a suspected electrical fault. The Board's Direct Labour Organisation and Mechanical and Electrical Field Engineer attended site, cleaned out the sump, removed and reinstalled both pumps which were now operating satisfactorily. Costs to date were £37,346 against the approved overall budget of £73,000.

RECEIVED

9:4 Wyche Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM20304)

The stop log frames had been installed and the stop logs checked to ensure they fitted and were operable. Quotations for the pump refurbishment works were being refreshed as considerable time had elapsed since the initial quotes were received. It was anticipated that costs would increase by at least 20% due to the current supply issues and raw materials costs. Costs to date were £19,378 against the budget of £39,600.

RECEIVED

9:5 Telemetry System Replacement (LM20303)

All communication issues had been sorted. With the exception of Wedlands Gate, telemetry units had been installed in all of the Board's pumping stations. All stations had visibility with approximately 75% operating in Telemetry control.

RECEIVED

9:6 Pumping Stations - New security doors

Funding for the purchase and installation of security doors was, for some stations, within the annual operational and maintenance budgets and would need to be moved to cover the expenditure. Details of the movement of funds to the pumping stations' doors project totalling £14,000 would be detailed in the Finance report.

RECEIVED

9:7 Gayton Engine Museum - Subsidence

Lincolnshire Heritage agreed that the Board should proceed with the repair works to the building subject to their consideration of a methodology. This had been requested from the specialist contractor who would be undertaking the work.

It was proposed to fund the repair works from unspent operational budgets with £7,500 being transferred as detailed in the Finance report.

RECEIVED

10. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report.

Mr T. Farrow left the meeting.

10:1 Management Accounts and Variance Report for the year ending 31st March 2022

It was noted there was a surplus of £1,277,884.39 which was £316,402.39 more than estimated however some of this underspend would be needed to cover expenditure in future years. The surplus cash reserves including nonspecific scheme funds for the year were 30.62%.

The Chairman queried if the 30% reserve policy was set by the Board or if it was the advised value. The Chief Executive stated that ADA advised on the percentage.

He further highlighted that the reserves allowed flexibility to start projects such as Saltfleet Pumping station before funding was received and allowed us to move schemes and projects forward should it be advantageous to do so. Mr S.W. Eyre commented that this was a good example of why additional funds were needed.

Mr W. Cooper queried the £7,300 expenditure on hired vehicles and if a budget for this was needed to cover delivery delays. The Senior Operations Manager reported that use of the second-hand Trent Valley vehicle had reduced the need to use hired vehicles.

RESOLVED

That the Variance report for the year ending 31st March 2022 be approved by the Board.

10:2 Transfer of Budgets for Approval

The Finance Manager presented the attached schedule of budget transfers for members approval.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of budget transfers be approved.

10:3 Management Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022

The Finance Manager presented the management Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 for the Board's approval.

In response to Mr P.W. Pridgeon she confirmed that Pumping Station buildings depreciated over 50 years and Weedscreens over 25 years.

RESOLVED

That the attached Management Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 be approved and the Chairman sign page 2 of the accounts.

10:4 Audit of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2022

The Board's Internal Auditor presented the attached report for the year ending 31st March 2022 stating that he had given the Board a substantial assurance with two areas for improvement. He commented that attendance had reduced over the year and emphasised that attendance was essential for good governance, particularly as the Board was the lead Board in the Consortium. He further advised on an amendment to the Financial Regulations regarding calculation of reserves to reflect the current method of calculation. He commented that all Boards had a different approach as to how reserves were calculated, it was paramount to keep reserves in place for emergency situations and make sure they were sufficient going forward.

Cllr E. Mossop queried how the Board's reserves compared to others. The Auditor confirmed they were comparable. The Chief Executive commented that the Board was on year two of a six-year programme with some very large projects and therefore considerable expense was programmed. The Board managed income to reduce the need for peaks in the rate.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon asked if Public Works Loan Board borrowing could be used to cover the peaks. The Chief Executive commented that the Board had reduced its debt over recent years so that it had the option to take out loans to spread the cost, however, it needed to look at funding options to ensure loan debt remained in balance. The Finance Manager was reviewing loan options as part of the ten-year plan and had £2 million loan funding planned over the next six years. Interest rates were increasing but she was hopeful they would not increase too much.

The Executive Officer would be reviewing projects. There was a lot of work involved in preparing business cases for FDGiA funding and one option was to have these written externally. However, if a project was over £10 million it was dealt with and funded by the National Large Project Review Group (LPRG) rather than local Regional EA Teams. There was the option to combine projects to allow one business case to be completed. This had the advantage of reducing the Board's contribution to 15% from 20+%.

Mr D.R. Tagg emphasised the need to engage with East Lindsey District Council. The Chief Executive confirmed that Officers regularly liaised with Councils. Mr S.W. Eyre commented that now East Lindsey were working with South Holland and Boston Councils the focus on drainage may increase.

Cllr T. Aldridge asked if the Board needed to inform East Lindsey District Council of the councillors' attendance at Board meetings. The Chief Executive undertook to discuss this with their Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive. Mr P.W. Pridgeon commented that some members had found it difficult to attend the virtual meetings. The Corporate Services Manager stated that overall attendance had not been poor. The Chief Executive highlighted that if the Board was unable to recruit members or maintain attendance there was the option to reduce the size of the Board.

RESOLVED

That the attached audit report and auditor's recommendations be noted.

10:5 Annual Governance Statement and Review of Internal Controls

The Finance Manager presented the Annual Governance Statement for consideration by members who agreed that the Board had a sound system of internal control.

RESOLVED

That the attached Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Chief Executive.

10:6 Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Finance Manager presented the accounting statements for 2021/22 for consideration by the Board.

Cllr E. Mossop queried when the Business Risk Register would be brought to the Board, The Chief Executive confirmed the updated dynamic risk register would be brought to the September Meeting and that the Business Risk Register was presented annually.

RESOLVED

That the attached Accounting Statements for 2021/22 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

10:7 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 31st March 2022

Following staffing changes the Board was asked to approve the removal of Mr N. Kemble and addition of Dr D. Hickman and Mr R. Brown to the bank mandates.

The Finance Manager asked that the Board approve the application for a £391,000 Public Works Loan Board loan to be used to fund the Saltfleet Pumping Station Refurbishment.

The Finance Manager reported that the Board had £6,218,038.11 held across five accounts.

In response to Cllr A. Howard the Finance Manager stated that Officers would be reviewing all investments and meeting with banks so interest rates would be reviewed as part of this process.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon noted that the investments were still over the amounts detailed in the Financial Regulations. The Finance Manager acknowledged this and reported that the Board had approved this at the November Meeting but the amount would reduce as some large expenses came in this year.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Mr N Kemble be removed and Dr D. Hickman and Mr R. Brown be added to the Bank Mandates.
- (b) That the Board apply for a £391,000 Public Works Loan Board Loan to partially fund Saltfleet Pumping Station Refurbishment.

10:8 Payments over £500

A schedule of payments made over £500 totaling £743,869.70 made since the previous Board meeting were presented for approval.

RESOLVED

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

11. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

As at 26th May 2022 a total of £962,416.53 (22.9%) had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies had been collected in full.

Of the £3,683.73 outstanding at the 31st March 2022 £1,875.87 had been collected.

RECEIVED

12. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

12:1 River Steeping Catchment - Dredging Project (LM20901)

The silt in Lagoon C was drying out and Operatives were looking to dig wind rows across the area to promote drying. As part of the final recovery work at Lagoons A and B, orders had been placed for under-drainage work which was due to be completed within four weeks. Expenditure to date was £1,165,315.92 against the revised budget of £1,285,000.

RECEIVED

12:2 Office Accommodation

The Executive Officer reported that the Environment Agency had approached him regarding co-location of approximately 12 staff. There may also be the potential to extend this to field staff. Officers asked if members would support a co-location arrangement. Mr P.W. Pridgeon commented that this had been looked at a number of years ago and that it was a good idea provided it did not require too much time and money from the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Board support the Executive Officer entering discussions with the Environment Agency regarding co-location.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

13:1 Mink Control

(a) Chalk Streams

The Board had allocated £6,000 for mink control which was being undertaken by the Lincolnshire Chalk Stream Project as part of a research project. The rafts and traps were purchased with a grant from Anglian Water Services Limited. This would end on 30th June 2022 and Officers proposed the Board continued

this work utilising their equipment. This would save the Board the majority of the capital costs with Mink dispatch and monitoring to be undertaken by Lincspst Ltd (the current contractor).

(b) River Steeping

The Environment Agency (EA) initiated this Mink control work as part of the mitigation for the programme of maintenance works. Funding was available to continue this work if it could be delivered through a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement with the Board. Officers proposed that the Board enter into a contract with Lincspst Ltd to continue this work with all costs recharged to the EA.

Mr G.A. Crust commented that the Board should continue with mink control. Mr D.R. Tagg agreed. The Chief Executive stated that if a contractor was not appointed the Board would have to undertake the work itself.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve the continued mink control using its own equipment.
- (b) That the Board enter into a contract with Lincspst Ltd to undertake Mink control on the River Steeping with costs to be met by the Environment Agency.

13:2 Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill

It was proposed that the Bill, when enacted, would replace the Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 and require the production of Environmental Outcomes Reports for the Board's improvements works and capital programme. The format of the reports would not be known for some time but via ADA, it was hoped that the requirement to advertise work in local newspapers would be removed.

RECEIVED

13:3 The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020

Registration of all sites where pesticides were stored had been completed as required by the legislation, the duration of this registration was yet to be confirmed.

RECEIVED

14. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

14:1 Byelaw Applications

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

LMDB/LDC/2021/059 Installation of 12 linear metres of 2,400mm diameter twin wall PVC culvert pipe with associated headwalls and parapet walls in the Board maintained Mardyke Drain in the parish of Saltfleetby at National Grid Reference 544587 - 390272.

- LMDB/LDC/2021/061 Surface water discharge via riparian watercourse which will increase the flow to the Board maintained Tetney Hoop End Drain drain at National Grid Reference 531930 - 401327.
- LMDB/LDC/2022/002 To increase the flow of surface water from development at National Grid Reference 546733 - 381515 in the parish of Maltby Le Marsh.
- LMDB/LDC/2022/007 The erection of an extension within nine metres but no closer than six metres to the Board maintained Winthorpe North Drain at National Grid Reference 556636 - 365481.
- LMDB/LDC/2022/010 Installation of an access culvert consisting of 12 metres of 1,800mm diameter twinwall PVC pipe to the Board maintained Sutton Main Drain in the parish of Mablethorpe and Sutton at Grid Reference 550893 - 382607.
- LMDB/LDC/2022/015 Installation of a HV power supply cable within nine metres of the Board maintained Winthorpe Drain for a distance of approximately 250 metres between National Grid References 554735 - 363717 and 554933 - 363648 in the parish of Skegness.

RECEIVED

14:2 Section 23 Applications

No Section 23 applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Board since the last meeting. The following application had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority:

- LMDB/LDC/2022/001 Installation of three 12 linear metre culverts of 300mm diameter pvc twinwall culvert pipe for road crossings of riparian watercourse at National Grid References 533180 - 388938, 533210 - 389043 and 533339 - 389106 in the parish of Louth.

RECEIVED

14:3 Planning Applications

Officers had not objected to any planning applications since the last meeting.

Officers had consulted on a further 17 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were provided.

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15. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

In accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 and the Land Drainage (Election of Internal Drainage Boards)(Amendment) Regulations 1977, the Registers of Electors had been prepared for the five electoral districts. Notice that the Registers of Electors had been prepared was

published on the Board's website on 27th May 2022. The period of objection expired on the 13th June 2022 and no claims or objections had been received. Should an Election be necessary, it would be held on 28th October 2022.

RESOLVED

That the Register of Electors be approved.

16. STAFFING

16:1 Recruitment

The Corporate Services Manager reported the post of Engineer had not been advertised but the internal promotion of Mr R. Brown to Senior Engineer, would cover most of the role. The new post of Executive Officer had been filled by Dr D. Hickman and his first priority would be to support the engineering team to ensure they were focussed on the delivery of projects, allowing the Senior Engineer to undertake any necessary training.

Five of the six new engineering roles had been filled along with the Flood Risk and Modelling Advisor position. The vacant posts of Flood Risk and Modelling Analyst and Senior Civils Engineer had not been filled. The Executive Officer would be reviewing the needs of the engineering department before any further appointments were made.

The Board's Foreman had been promoted to Operations Manager.

The position of Admin Assistant for the planning and enforcement team had been filled internally, creating a vacancy in the Corporate Services department.

RECEIVED

16:2 Salary Review

In accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, it was agreed to exclude the public from this part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed. The minutes of which are recorded on pink paper.

RESOLVED

That the Board introduce a salary for the Direct Labour Organisation as detailed on pink paper.

16:3 WMC Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC)

The first meeting of the Committee would be held on 10th August 2022. The Committee would be made up of the four Chairmen, the Chief Executive and Corporate Services Manager, together with a representative from each workforce, the office staff and Unison.

The Chief Executive and Corporate Services Manager had met informally with Unison who were keen to be involved in any discussions relating to pay and terms and conditions. They were also keen for formal recognition. Officers were concerned that all employees should be represented on the Committee and have the right to a vote, not just Unison members, therefore, this would be considered and discussed at the first

meeting of the JNC when the Committee Terms of Reference would be agreed. A new handbook setting out employee terms and conditions was being prepared.

Mr D.R. Tagg queried if all staff were now working from the office. The Chief Executive confirmed that the majority were in the office at least part time but that space was limited and the option to work from home was still available if roles allowed.

RECEIVED

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr T.H. Heys commented that meetings were better in person.

Mr R. H. Needham queried if a tour of inspection would be arranged. The Chief Executive confirmed this was being looked into.

The Chief Executive agreed that where possible meetings were better in person, however, he felt that the decision taken to hold virtual meetings during Covid had been the right one and that it was right to keep some restrictions in place going forward.

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CHAIRMAN