

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at Kenwick Park Hotel on Wednesday, 23rd November 2022.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------|----------------|
| * Messrs | G.A. Crust (Chairman) | * Cllrs | T. Aldridge |
| * | S.W. Eyre (Vice-Chairman) | | D. Andrews |
| | G. Bowser | * | T. Ashton |
| | W. Cooper | | S. Dennis |
| * | R. Crust | * | D. Edgington |
| * | M. Denby | * | A.J. Howard |
| * | J.M. Mowbray | * | D. McNally |
| * | R.H. Needham | * | E. Mossop |
| | D. Pridgeon | | W. Parkinson |
| * | D.R. Tagg | * | P. Rickett |
| | | | Mrs W. Bowkett |
| * <i>Present</i> | | | |
| * Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive) | | | |
| * | D. Hickman (Executive Officer) | | |
| * | A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager) | | |
| * | S. Stones (Foreman) | | |
| * | R. Brown (Senior Engineer) | | |
| * Mesdames | N. Hind (Finance Manager) | | |
| * | C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager) | | |

* *In attendance*

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

It was agreed that the Chief Executive be appointed Chairman pro tem.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr D.R. Tagg and seconded by Cllr T. Aldridge that Mr G.A. Crust be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr G.A. Crust be re-elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr R.H. Needham and seconded by Mr J.M. Mowbray that Mr S.W.Eyre be re-elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr S.W. Eyre be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs W. Cooper and D. Pridgeon and Cllrs D. Andrews, S. Dennis, W. Parkinson and P. Rickett.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr J.M. Mowbray declared an interest in agenda item 16 Compensation Claims.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive raised the Members Disburseent Fund.

7. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1667 to 1685)

It was noted that a resolution had been missed off the minutes in the members pack. On Agenda Item 22 Staffing, the Board had approved the Joint Negotiation Committee Terms of Reference. This had been amended and would be included in the minute book copy.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 28th September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS ARISING

8:1 Minute 5:1 Page 1668 Matters Arising

The Chief Executive reported that he had met with Ms C. Marshall (Deputy CEO/ Finance Officer of ELDC). It had been a productive meeting regarding the current financial pressures. A joint approach was being taken to tackle the issue and raise it with central government, there were still some matters to follow up but the foundation had been set. Cllr T. Ashton was pleased the meeting had been successful. He had raised the issue with MPs across the area and had had a useful meeting with John Hayes MP at Westminster. This had been encouraging and he had committed to take the matter up with the Secretary of State. Ms C. Marshall was asking for the special to be fully funded but this was not receiving a positive response and she continued to try to remove special levy from within the referendum cap. It was pleasing that the Board and Council were working jointly to find a solution.

Cllr T. Aldridge asked if there was any information on the Chief Executive making a presentation to the full council meeting in December as the agenda was due to be set in the coming days. The Chief Executive would follow this up with the council.

RECEIVED

9. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The attached minutes of a meeting held on the 7th November 2022 were presented for members approval.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 7th November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

10. STAFFING AND RESOURCES MINUTES

The attached minutes of a meeting held on the 7th November 2022 were presented for members approval.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Committee meeting held on 7th November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be adopted by the Board.

11. ELECTION

The election of members to represent the agricultural drainage ratepayers had been completed with the term of office running 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2025. The following members were elected:

<u>Electoral District</u>	<u>Members Elected</u>
Burgh Sluice/Thorpe Culvert/Wainfleet/Croft	Mr G.A. Crust Mr G.G. Bowser
Ingoldmells/Chapel	Mr D.R. Tagg Mr D.J. Pridgeon
Anderby/Boygriff/Trusthorpe	Mr J.M. Mowbray Mr S.W. Eyre
Saltfleet/Theddlethorpe	Mr R.N. Crust Mr M.C. Denby
Tetney/Canal/Somercotes/Grainthorpe	Mr W.C. Cooper Mr R.H. Needham

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12. MEETINGS DATES

Officers presented the proposed list of Board and Committee meeting dates for members approval.

Mr R.H. Needham stated Committees were not appropriate particularly given the current climate and suggested that full Board meetings be held instead. Mr D.R. Tagg agreed.

It was agreed to consider Committee dates as part of Agenda Item 13.

The following meeting dates were proposed:

25th January	Board Meeting
29th March	Board Meeting
25th May	Consortium Committee
28th June	Board Meeting
25th July	Joint Negotiating Committee
27th September	Board Meeting
3rd October	Consortium Committee
3rd October	Joint Negotiating Committee
22nd November	Board Meeting (Annual General Meeting)

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch would be meeting on the 23rd February 2023 and 20th April 2023.

Other dates for note were the Lincolnshire show (21st and 22nd June) Flood and Water Live (5th and 6th July), the date for the ADA Annual conference was to be confirmed.

RESOLVED

That the meeting dates for 2023 be approved and noted.

13. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Members were asked to consider appointments to committees for the coming year.

The Chief Executive stated that there was an option to remove the Committees and discuss all matters at Board meetings or to amalgamate the Plant and Compensation and Staffing and Resources Committee to reduce the number. One Committee would be more efficient and give members opportunity to be involved in detailed workings and decisions. He suggested a proposal be brought to the January meeting regarding committees and if any decisions were needed before an extraordinary meeting could be called. Cllr T. Ashton supported deferral stating that the Board needed to do what worked well for the Board. Mr Needham could not see the point in deferring and proposed that the Board make a resolution to abolish the two committees. In response to the Chairman the Corporate Services Manager confirmed the Board could do this.

Officers highlighted that Extraordinary Board meetings were sometimes difficult to schedule.

It was proposed by Mr R.H Needham and seconded by Mr D.R. Tagg that the Plant and Compensation Committee and Staffing and Resources Committee be removed and replaced with Extraordinary Board meetings.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Plant and Compensation Committee and Staffing and Resources Committee be removed and replaced with Extraordinary Board meetings if required.
- (b) That the following appointments be approved:

Standards Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs R.H.Needham, Cllrs D. Andrews, A.J. Howard and E. Mossop.

Consortium Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board with Cllr T. Ashton as substitute.

14. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

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

Since the last meeting there had been five health and safety incidents across the Consortium, none of which were in the Lindsey Marsh Board area.

Officers continued to review the Consortium's policies and were rationalising COSHH assessments.

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15. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Senior Operations Manager reported that summer maintenance work was complete. Winter works were due to commence on 13,895m of watercourse, mitigation works had been completed with further work to be done in February 2023. The proposed 2023/24 reforming programme had been updated and now totalled 24,762m. Culverting works would also be completed on Grove Road Theddlethorpe, Rotten Rown Drain and Orby South Drain.

Rainfall and pump run hours were presented for members information.

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16. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £7,801.81 was presented for approval; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

RESOLVED

That the compensation payments made since the last meeting totalling £7,801.81 be approved.

17. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

17:1 Coastal Pumping Stations Refurbishment - Trusthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells and Saltfleet (LM19351, LM19304, LM20305 and LM20306)

(a) Saltfleet Pumping Station

Civils works were ongoing, the pump inlet removal was 75% complete, works to the downstream dam were 60% complete and building works / demolition internally had commenced. Phase 2 of the asbestos removal had also commenced along with ground floor propping and cutting. Roof removal was being planned for week commencing 21st November 2022 with pump and pipework installation by Bosman Watermanagement BV planned for 9th December 2022. The transformer and switchgear removal was complete.

Due to delays the completion date for having the pumping station back on-line was now 16th January 2023, regular progress meetings were being held. A contingency plan for over-pumping throughout the Christmas period was being drawn up, this included water levels purposely being kept low for the time of year (approximately 300mm) to ensure maximum storage was available within the catchment. There was some seepage around the dam but this was manageable.

Officers had been alerted to several dead swans in the immediate vicinity and following current Government guidelines on Bird Flu, this had been reported to Defra.

The Board's contribution to the scheme was £893,160, to support general reserves and the increased cost of electric, Officers recommended the Board loan be increase from £391,000 to £591,000 releasing £200,000 back to general reserves. The Board had a Capital Receipts Reserve of £136,003 and it was recommended to consider allocation of this to the project.

Cllr D. McNally asked if demolition would have been better. The Senior Engineer stated that for this site full demolition would have been longer and more problematic but each site was considered individually.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board increase the loan for Saltfleet Pumping Station to £591,000 and release £200,000 to general reserves.
- (b) That the Board transfer the £136,003 Capital Receipts Reserve to the Saltfleet Pumping Station Scheme.

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

Work was behind schedule, installation of plastic pipes commenced on 15th November 2022 with piling to the structure planned to be carried out on 5th December 2022. The base of the structure was due to be completed prior to the Christmas shut down.

Mr R.H. Needham queried the control method for taking water from the Greyfleet. The Senior Engineer stated the operating regime for the penstocks on the intake was being agreed with the Environment Agency (EA) but the peak discharge would be two cumecs when the Greyfleet was tide locked. Discussions were ongoing regarding contributions for the Board taking the additional water with the possibility of increasing the highland water contribution for Saltfleet by 22% to approximately 38%. The station was increasing from six to nine cumecs which allowed scope for the additional two cumecs from the EA system with spare capacity for additional flows in the future.

Mr R. Crust asked if there would be any desilting works as part of the project. The Senior Engineer confirmed this was not currently planned and if operated at low tide the station would push the silt out however they would discuss the matter with the EA if needed. The Board was also refurbishing the gates to allow release of water and a flushing pump would be installed to jet the silt and allow operation. In response to Members he agreed to discuss options for desilting and deposition of silt with the EA and report back to the Board.

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(c) Gents Canal to Mardyke Connection

As part of a revised scope, it was proposed to install a third connection from the Board's Gents Canal to the Mardyke. This would involve the installation of a 2.1 metre diameter UPVC pipe. In line with the new scope, the bills of quantities were currently being revised and would be priced by both JN Bentley Limited and the Board's Direct Labour Organisation.

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(d) Trusthorpe Pumping Station

The scheme had been deferred until April 2023 due to the elevated risk of flooding to land and properties in the area, were the station to switch to temporary over-pumping during the high risk season. Some minor works had been completed including repair of the discharge tunnel pipework. The pumping station was dammed off and an inspection of the piles was undertaken which revealed the piles would require substantial repair. The new transformer and switchgear had been installed at the station.

Enhancements to the temporary over-pumping were being developed in advance of the re-commencement of the scheme in April 2023.

An initial inspection was carried out on the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner and a quotation of £17,226.58 had been received to fully refurbish the trolley carriage and grab. In light of the likely additional costs associated with over-pumping at Trusthorpe and the generally good condition of the weedscreen cleaner officers recommended that an order be placed to carry out the work. A budgetary provision of £100,000 was allocated for weedscreen cleaner refurbishment. This represented a significant saving which would mitigate some

of the anticipated additional over-pumping costs. The Senior Engineer estimated that the work would be completed before Winter.

RESOLVED

That an order be placed with AIM Electrical to refurbish the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner at Trusthorpe Pumping Station at a cost of £17,226.58.

(e) Ingoldmells Pumping Station

Bosman Watermanagement BV had provided early design drawings of the pump assembly and General Arrangement. The drawings had been forwarded to James Roberts Design for the civils building modification works. A full asbestos refurbishment and demolition survey had been completed with asbestos discovered within the cavity walls and a lump of asbestos was discovered on the work bench in the station which had been removed, encapsulated and disposed of. The area including tools and spare engine parts was subsequently cleaned down. A reassurance air test to ensure no fibres were present was undertaken following the works.

A drone survey would be undertaken along 600 metres of the Ingoldmells Main Drain from the pumping station to the A52 road bridge to assess the condition of both banks of the channel which were inaccessible due to encroachment of palisade fencing and caravans along the entire length. It was anticipated that significant remedial works would be required along this length of the approach channel.

Officers were in early discussions with Vanderkamp to explore temporary over-pumping whilst the station is off-line. A concept / proposal was awaited but it was anticipated that 3 cumecs would be required.

(f) Anderby Pumping Station

The Outline Business Case had been signed off, the formal grant approval letter was awaited. As at Ingoldmells Pumping Station, Bosman Watermanagement BV had provided early design drawings of the pump assembly and General Arrangement. The drawings had been forwarded to James Roberts Design for the civils building modification works. A full asbestos refurbishment and demolition survey had also been undertaken. A proposal from Vanderkamp for the temporary over-pumping arrangement was awaited with capacity of 1.5 cumecs required which could be supplemented by use of the gravity system and the old diesel pumping station.

(g) Expenditure to date

Committed costs to date were;

Pumping Station	Committed Expenditure	Estimated Scheme Costs (Total)
Saltfleet (LM19351)	£3,550,740	£4,411,900

Trusthorpe (LM19304)	£1,448,187	£1,849,692
Ingoldmells (LM20305)	£64,590	£2,513,057
Anderby (LM20306)	£82,987	£2,141,788

17:2 Replacement Gauge Boards (LM18304) and installation of CCTV at Pumping Stations (LM18305)

Following a review of engineering projects it was recommended that the replacement of gauge boards (£10,000) and the installation of CCTV at pumping stations (£9,821.50) projects be closed, and the residual balances be transferred to support increasing costs seen at Burgh Village (LM21305 - £12,000) and Chapel Basin Pumping Station (LM21306 - £7,821.50) Refurbishments. These aspects were now included as part of specific schemes.

RESOLVED

That projects LM18304 (gauge boards) and LM18305 (CCTV) be closed and the residual balances be transferred to support Burgh Village Pumping Station Refurbishment (£12,000) and Chapel Basin Pumping Refurbishment (£7,821.50) projects.

17:3 Gotts Pumping Station – Installation of platforms (LM22311)

Some residual health and safety issues had been identified at the station, the proposed works were to fabricate and install safe working platforms and walkways to aid installation of the stop logs. To fund the works it was recommended that the Board approve the transfer of £15,000 from the replacement pumping station door budget (LM21309) and £5,000 from the Pumping Station Resilience budget (LM22301).

RESOLVED

That the Board transfer £15,000 from (LM21309) and £5,000 from (LM22301) to fund the installation of platforms at Gotts Pumping Station.

17:4 Emergency Pump Repairs (LM22302)

Whilst on site at Burgh Village Pumping Station, the Operations team discovered water leaking back through the pipe from the discharge outfall flap. North Lincs Engineering had attended site and the wooden outfall flap was found to be rotten. An order had been placed with North Lincs Engineering for £3,275 to remove and replace with a new stainless-steel flap.

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17:5 Wyche Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM20304)

An order had been placed with North Lincs Engineering to remove, overhaul and reinstall the first pump at the station. Works to refurbish the second pump would be undertaken when weather conditions are more favourable during April 2023. Committed costs to date were £37,742 against the approved budget of £61,600.

RECEIVED

17:6 Covenham Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM19300)

The new pumps and panel had been commissioned and were operational. Final operating levels were being resolved due to the higher capacity pumps. Costs to date were £46,583 against the approved budget of £85,142 and final out-turn costs would be reported to the January Board meeting.

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17:7 Replacement doors at pumping stations (LM21309)

Replacement steel security doors had been installed at Fulstow East and West, Biergate East and West, Austen Fen East and West, Theddlethorpe, Fulbeck, Covenham, Anderby, Crown Farm and Gibraltar Point Pumping Stations. The existing doors at Trusthorpe and Saltfleet Pumping Stations would be replaced following completion of the refurbishment works.

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17:8 Future Programme Update

Officers presented an update on schemes across the Consortium. The Executive Officer asked if members were happy with the level of detail provided, it was intended to add funding and outturn in the future. Cllr E. Mossop asked if there was a way of showing the risk or priority on the list. The Executive Officer would look into this and include on future versions.

Officers were in discussions with Scape consultancy regarding the planned future projects that would form part of two large scale packaged outline business cases, one for the Lindsey Marsh area and a second for Trent Valley, Doncaster East and Isle of Axholme areas. A clear narrative was emerging for both areas, emphasising connectivity between catchments, the potential for large scale movement and retention of water in periods of low and high flows, and the environmental benefits arising from this approach. Feedback both regionally and nationally continued to be favourable to a packaged approach, with clear anticipation that this was considered a more advantageous way of guaranteeing effective use of funds allocated by government for flood and water management. It was anticipated that Scape would be in a position to provide an initial scoping report setting out the key elements of each OBC during December, leading to detailed feasibility work early in 2023, and production of the completed OBCs during Summer 2023.

The Chief Executive stated that maps were being prepared showing the number of properties and area protected by the Board, the Environment Agency had a £300,000 fund given to them for equipment at the end of its life and this had been opened up to Boards. The Board only replaced items if needed. In this area of special drainage need if the Boards were not funded it would put several thousands of houses at risk.

The Chairman highlighted an Environment Agency article which had been published showing the whole Board area at risk of flooding. The Chief Executive stated the map basically showed all IDB areas and he had forwarded this to ADA and asked them to respond.

RECEIVED

18. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for members consideration.

18:1 Management Accounts for the Period Ending 30th September 2022

The management accounts up to the 30th September 2022 showed a positive variance of £97,809.85 the majority of which was due to employment underspends. The predicted outturn at the 31st March 2023 was expected to be a deficit of £251,480.84, less transfers from reserves approved under item 17 which improved the position to a deficit of £51,480.84. Based on updated figures the electricity overspend was anticipated to be £382,971.

The general cash reserves at the 31st March 2023 were predicted to be £624,536.15 (14.73%) which increased to 27.16% when unallocated reserves were taken into account.

Mr J.M. Mowbray queried the value of plant disposals stating that the 4x4s in particular were low. The Finance Manager stated these were disposals from previous years so the values were estimated at that point, any additional funds from disposal would be transferred into reserves.

The Chief Executive explained that the Board used reserves, such as the pumping station and plant, to allow expenditure for large schemes and items to be spread prior to purchase and thus easing the impact on ratepayers.

RESOLVED

That the Management Accounts for the period ending 30th September 2022 be approved

18:2 Transfer of Budgets

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

RECEIVED

18:3 Cash Balances and Borrowings as at 30th September 2022

The Finance Manager reported that the Board had £6,587,686.85 held across five accounts. The increased loan of £591,000 for Saltfleet Pumping Station would be applied for following members approval under item 17:1.

RESOLVED

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

18:4 Payments over £500

RESOLVED

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

19. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24

The Finance Manager presented the DRAFT 2023/24 estimates ahead of approval at the January Board meeting. The planned expenditure for the year was £7,806,140 of which £5,116,961 was to be funded by rates and special levy.

The Chief Executive highlighted that officers were arranging a visit with Victoria Atkins and would be inviting Ms C. Marshall from ELDC. He was hopeful this would be before Christmas. He had also held meetings with and contacted other MPs across the Consortium area. He informed members that Bassetlaw District Council had contacted Radio Sheffield to raise the issues being faced by IDBs and councils.

A meeting had been arranged on the 30th November with Defra Officials, ADA and other IDBs and he was hopeful that this would be positive. The Chief Executive was working on a joint approach to the issue and he was grateful for ELDC's support. It was hard to judge the position with energy prices and whilst slow to come down he was hopeful that prices would ease a little. The estimates figures, however, were severe and needed to be treated seriously.

The Finance Manager presented attached summary of rate options including a 22.05% and 32.5% increase. The Electricity overspend for 2022/23 was expected to be £382,971 and this would need to be rated for in 2023/24 in addition to the increased electricity costs of £858,399 for the coming year. This equated to a 32.1% increase in the rate. A wet year could increase these costs by a further £210,000 which would need to be met from reserves. If the Board did not recover the 2022/23 overspend on electricity it would run out of reserves by 2024/25. Officers had mitigated increases where they could by taking loans and moving reserve funds.

A 22.05% rise would leave the Board with a 21.68% general reserve which increased to 29% when using scheme funds. The Finance Manager highlighted that the increased running costs meant that the value of the reserve funds needed to be proportionally larger.

The Chief Executive queried the reserve position if plant purchases were delayed and a 14.5% rise was set. The Finance Manager stated reserves would be 23%, the Chairman highlighted the risk of additional repair costs and Cllr T. Ashton commented that purchase

prices may also increase the following year. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that some suppliers had indicated a 10% increase in excavator costs from January 2023.

Cllr A.J. Howard queried if costs would increase if the Board did not fill the two Engineering vacancies. The Chief Executive stated that ideally the posts needed to be filled for succession planning and cover, however, it was a case of managing the risk, normally he would be pushing to fill the posts.

The Chief Executive highlighted that officers were looking at options including ESPO, Torse and Woldmarsh to ensure the Board was getting the best rate, he was reluctant to fix at the moment as if prices eased even a little it would have a significant impact. Officers were monitoring the situation closely. In response to Mr D.R. Tagg he stated that the Board was not setting the rate at this time but Officers were looking for guidance so this could be taken to the Defra meeting and to Councils.

Cllr T. Ashton stated he endorsed the ambition to hold 30% reserves, given the increased frequency of weather events over recent years. The Board needed to have sufficient reserves to deal with one but ideally two events as recently there had been successive wet years. The £1m Special Levy came out of the Council operating revenue and would have a real impact on what services councils were able to provide, but government was not doing anything and it would take a crisis to make them take note. At this stage he was happy to support 32.5% increase to achieve 30% reserves so the Board was resilient to events and changes.

The Finance Manager confirmed that in recent years reserves had been around 20% but the Board had been aiming to increase this as part of its 5 year plan. The scheme funds which were currently supporting the reserves were reducing as they were used for schemes and would be used up entirely over the next three years. If they were used for a flood event the Board would need to rate for the funds in future years.

Mr D.R. Tagg commented that it was a sensible budget and the Board must not leave maintenance to cause problems in future years and supported the 32.5% increase if needed.

Mr R.H. Needham stated that the reason the Board existed was to drain water and it must not move away from that. As unpalatable as it was the Board had previously argued to keep the rate low, to make an example it needed to go with the high figure and hope things were introduced so it was not necessary.

The Chairman highlighted that the cost of not doing the work would be significantly higher if a flood event occurred. Mr S.W. Eyre supported the views expressed stating the Board needed to bite the bullet and see if in January the position improved.

The Chief Executive stated that the Board still needed to be realistic and may have to make cuts or changes, budgets would be reviewed again internally prior to the January meeting so that options could be presented to the Board.

Cllr T. Ashton stated that the increase would represent a significant hit on the Council's revenue budgets and they did not have the ability to pass the cost on due to the referendum cap on District Council Precepts. East Lindsey DC were trying to get Special Levy taken out of the cap so they could pass the cost on, he could easily justify the Board's work and would defend the need for the Board's work but it was the fact that they could not pass on which

was causing the issue. Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett agreed stating it would be a tough 18-24months or longer.

Cllr T. Aldridge stated it was essential to make a presentation to Councillors at the December Council meeting. The Chief Executive would contact the Council.

Members agreed in principle to a 32.5% rise, to achieve 30% reserves, with a final decision to be made at the January meeting once figures had been finalised.

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Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett left the meeting.

20. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £3,164,966.87 had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies up to the 2nd November 2022 giving a combined collection total of 75.38%.

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21 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Environment Agency (EA) had asked officers to undertake maintenance on Willoughby High Drain, the Woldgrift, Wold Drain and Orby Drain. This was less than the usual ten watercourses but officers had not received any reason for the reduction. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that previous issues which required the Board to take on CDM, take oxygen samples and reduce the standard of the work were being addressed and a new agreement was to be signed. In response to Mr D.R. Tagg he stated that the work was sufficient if not to usual Board standards. The Chief Executive stated that it came to a point where something was better than nothing.

The Chief Executive commented that the engineering team were preparing details of the number of acres of land and properties at risk if the EA systems were not maintained.

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22. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

22:1 ADA - Environmental Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Boards

The guide brought together a vast, complex and ever-changing array of environmental legislation, regulation and policy relevant to IDBs' operational activities, a link was circulated for members information.

22:2 Kestrel Recovery

A kestrel ringed in one of the Board's nest boxes at Crabtree Lane near to Boygriff Drain this year has been found, caught and released. The kestrel was observed at the ringing station at Gibraltar Point having moved 21 Km, 97 days between sightings.

23. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

23:1 Byelaw Applications

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| LMDB/LDC/2022/009 | Planting within 9 metres but no closer than 6 metres to the Board maintained Church Lane Drain Branch and installation of gates within 9 metres of the Board maintained Church Lane Drain at Field adjacent Mermaid Caravan Site, Mablethorpe, National Grid Reference 550082 - 384092 in the parish of Mablethorpe. |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/040 | Replacement of existing surface water discharge into the Board maintained South Marsh Drain culvert through new connection into existing chamber with a reduced discharge rate of 10 l/s. Sealands Holiday Park, Roman Bank at National Grid Reference 557097 - 367994 in the Parish of Ingoldmells. |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/042 | Installation of gates and a fence adjacent Marsh House Farm beside the Board maintained Orby North Drain at National Grid Reference 551312 - 367318 in the parish of Orby. |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/045 | Installation of sheet piles to offer improved scour protection at Addlethorpe Bridge in the Board maintained Ingoldmells Main Drain, National Grid Reference 554836 - 368731, in the parish of Addlethorpe. |

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23:2 Section 23 Applications

The following Section 23 applications had been dealt with since the last meeting:

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|-------------------|--|
| LMDB/LDC/2022/028 | Installation of a package treatment plant and discharge point to a riparian watercourse adjacent Manor Bungalow, Firsby at National Grid Reference 545574 - 362787 in the parish of Spilsby. |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/030 | The extension of an existing culvert by 22 linear metres in a riparian watercourse at Stone Arch, Bank End between National Grid References 541161 - 397422 and 541182 - 397418 in the parish of North Somercotes. |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/037 | Infilling of Riparian watercourse for approximately 200 metres at OS parcel 4200 National Grid Reference 555368 - 367104 in the Parish of Addlethorpe. |

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The following Section 23 applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority:

LMDB/LDC/2022/036 The extension of an existing culvert by 38 linear metres in a riparian watercourse at Acorn Cottage, Station Road between National Grid References 529865 - 398636 and 529921 - 398644 in the parish of North Thoresby.

LMDB/LDC/2022/039 Demolition and removal of existing damaged bridge with extension of existing 375mm diameter culvert by 7 linear metres to create new access to property over riparian watercourse. Crossroads Farm Pear Tree Lane at National Grid Reference 533187 - 395938 in the Parish of Fulstow.

RECEIVED

23:3 Planning Applications

Officers had objected to one planning application since the last meeting. Application N110/01839/22 at Marine Avenue West, Sutton on Sea for two freestanding hoarding signs. The Board objected due to the proximity to Alford Road Drain East. The applicant was informed that a minimum of 9 metres clearance was required between the watercourse bank top and the edge of any new building or structure (including fences, walls, trees, hedges etc). Officers had requested the applicant to contact the Board to discuss a way forward

Officers had consulted on a further 30 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were provided.

RECEIVED

24. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

The Chief Executive stated that following the ADA Lincolnshire and Welland and Nene Branch meeting ADA were now on side regarding financial pressures.

The ADA Conference had been held on the 9th November 2022 at Dyson Farming Lincoln, Cllr T. Ashton asked how the event had gone given the move from London. The Chief Executive gave an overview of the event numbers had been very limited and some of the presentations were poor however the presentation from the Dutch Water Boards had been very professional. The site visit had aimed to show different ideas on water course maintenance but the lack of maintenance on the Environment Agency (EA) system to which it connected was an issue functionally.

The Chief Executive stated that EA were behind the use of targeted desilting where sustainable but there was a need for maintenance on main rivers to ensure systems function and queried what the EA had meant by sustainable.

Cllr A.J. Howard stated that targeted desilting meant allowing silt to accumulate which equated to planned negligence. The Chief Executive stated work was done by the EA where supported by surveys and where there would be a positive impact, in some instances they may not need to desilt but did need to weedcut to remove reeds etc.

Mr R.H. Needham commented on the ineffectiveness of the EA stating that its predecessor had been more effective at dealing with Highland water. Mr R. Crust stated that rivers were waterways not environmental sites.

The Chief Executive had been asked by ADA to contribute to a question to be raised by Andrew Percy MP in the House of Commons regarding main river maintenance.

RECEIVED

25. WMC JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

All Officers left the meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive and Corporate Services Manager. The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee held on 17th October and gave an overview of the meeting. He stated that the four Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen had met prior to the JNC and considered various options and looked at proposed increases across similar organisations.

The Chief Executive reported that feedback from the Union and employee representatives on the proposal made at the JNC meeting had been positive and they had been understanding of the financial position of the Boards. He confirmed that LM would not bear the full cost of those staff working for the Consortium Boards as the increase would be incorporated into the recharge rate.

Members were asked to consider the proposed pay increase for 2023/24 and the cost-of-living increase. The Chief Executive stated that he would not expect to receive the £1,000 cost of living increase.

Members were supportive of the offer made at the JNC meeting and, although this was not really affordable bearing in mind the current financial situation, they agreed that this was essential in order to attract and retain staff.

It was proposed by Mr S.W. Eyre, seconded by Cllr T. Aldridge and RESOLVED unanimously that the recommendations of the Committee be approved as follows:

- (a) That a one-off, unconsolidated payment of £1,000 (pro rata) be paid to all staff (except the Chief Executive) in December 2022 to assist with the current cost-of-living crisis.
- (b) That all wages and salaries be increased by 5.5% with effect from 1st April 2023.

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive reported that the current signatories on the Members Disbursement Fund account required amending following the resignation of Mr T.H. Heys from the Board and the bank required a formal resolution from the Board in order to do so.

The Members Disbursement Fund had been set up many years ago and elected members paid any travelling allowance directly into this account. The money was used to fund visits by members and to pay for guests. Cllr T. Ashton stated that in other IDBs the council members also paid into the fund.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the signatories on the account be changed to the Chairman (Mr G.A. Crust) and Vice-Chairman (Mr S.W. Eyre).
- (b) That gifts be purchased from the fund for retiring members who have served over ten years, in recognition of their service to the Board.
- (c) That a report on the Members' Disbursement Fund be presented to the January Board meeting for consideration.

CHAIRMAN