

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting to discuss the recent flood event, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at the Wellington House, Manby on Wednesday, 22nd November 2023, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|---------|----------------|
| * Messrs | G.A. Crust (Chairman) | * Cllrs | T. Aldridge |
| * | S.W. Eyre (Vice-Chairman) | | T. Ashton |
| * | G. Bowser | * | Mrs W. Bowkett |
| * | W. Cooper | | S. Dennis |
| * | R. Crust | * | D. Edgington |
| * | M. Denby | * | D. Hobson |
| * | J.M. Mowbray | | S. Kemp |
| * | R.H. Needham | * | D. McNally |
| * | D. Pridgeon | * | E. Mossop |
| * | D.R. Tagg | * | W. Parkinson |
| | | * | D. Simpson |
- * *Present*

- * Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- * D. Hickman (Executive Officer)
- * A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)
- * S. Stones (Operations Manager)
- * R. Brown (Senior Engineer)
- * I. Turner (Environmental Officer)
- * Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)
- * C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

* *In attendance*

The Chairman informed members of the death of Mr J. Grant, the ex-Chairman of Witham Fourth IDB, the Board sent its condolences.

1. FLOOD EVENT DISCUSSION

The Chief Executive presented an overview of Storm Babet which had seen unprecedented levels of rainfall across the UK causing extensive flooding and record river levels across the East Midlands. The 18-20th October 2023 was the third wettest three-day period on record since 1891. Lincolnshire County Council had received 1,448 reports of flooding including 605 properties flooded internally. A further 206 were still being assessed and it was anticipated more instances of flooding would be reported.

The sea defences, Environment Agency watercourses and Board's systems were important for the protection of infrastructure, tourism, businesses and residents and it was important to work together to ensure functionality.

The Senior Operations Manager reported that the Thorpe Culvert area had seen overtopping of the Wainfleet Relief Channel. The Board's staff were onsite 24/7 and participated in Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme meetings liaising with residents and the emergency services. High water levels had resulted in the diesel engines at Quincey's Pumping Station being out of action for four days. The volunteers at Quinceys had raised equipment prior to water entering the building and had the station operational once the water had receded, running the pumps for 11 hours to assist the electric station. At one point all four electric pumps and both diesels were running and levels in the catchment returned to normal on the 25th/26th October.

Overtopping on the Wainfleet Relief Channel was seen by staff in at least five locations. The Environment Agency (EA) requested that the pumps at Thorpe Culvert be turned off. When turned off for 15 minutes water levels rose by 100mm at the station so three of the four pumps were turned back on.

There was a lot of land underwater in the Wyche and Willoughby High Drain area as a result of the Willoughby High Drain causing issues with discharge of water from the Wyche system. The Board's infrastructure had been heavily impacted due to additional volumes of water entering into the lowland catchments. Following an onsite meeting with the EA, it had been agreed that the Board would undertake maintenance to the weed fringe on one side of the watercourse. The work took three days and resulted in a rapid and significant drop in water levels. One property in the Hogsthorpe area had been close to flooding internally from levels in the Board's systems and a mobile pump was used to reduce levels.

The Howdales catchment saw overtopping of the EA maintained Greyfleet causing flooding to land. However, the newly installed control structure at Gents Canal allowed flows into the Board's system through to Saltfleet Pumping Station. The system had worked well, although some improvements were being considered. The overtopping occurred at low spots on the Greyfleet embankment before the water reached the control structure.

Austen Fen West and Biergate West Pumping Stations on Louth Canal experienced flooding of the building and the control cabinets but the stations kept running throughout. It was thought overtopping of the EA's Black Dyke and Poulton Drain was the source of the flooding.

Flooding was also experienced at Tetney Golf Course from the Board maintained Tetney Relief Drain which flowed into the EA's Mother Drain; the flap valve could not open due to debris and weed in the EA system which resulted in water backing up.

There was flooding to land at Great Carlton from the Board maintained Mablethorpe Upper Cut. The heavy rainfall had been exacerbated by overtopping of the EA's Beck/Long Eau.

The EA's Great Eau overtopped into the Board's system at Gayton Le Marsh causing flooding to land and the EA's Woldgrift overtopped at Maltby le Marsh into the Board's Trusthorpe system resulting in flooding of land.

Anderby Pumping Station was manned 24/7 for nine days to support the electric station which was being refurbished.

The Senior Management Team offered their thanks to staff for their hard work along with the volunteers at Quinceys, Mr M. Denby and G.H. Parkers for support with sandbagging at Thorpe Culvert, and to Lincs Engineering for supporting activities at Anderby. Training for volunteers and emergency relief staff was being reviewed and would be arranged in the new year.

The Chairman offered the thanks of the Board to staff for their hard work, members agreed.

The Chairman would be attending a meeting of the Quinceys volunteers in December to thank them in person. It was agreed that the Board would provide a working lunch for the volunteers in recognition of the time they had put in throughout the year to ensure the station remained operational and for manning the station during flooding events. Mileage would be reimbursed in line with Inland Revenue rates to those volunteers manning the station during the October event.

Cllr D. Simpson asked why the EA had requested the pumps at Thorpe Culvert be turned off. The Chief Executive stated that the Wainfleet Relief Channel was overtopping in multiple places and beginning to scour the back of the banks, a national emergency had been declared by the Fire Brigade. The Board was asked to turn pumps off so the Bank did not breach but levels at the station rose rapidly.

Cllr Simpson asked if the EA was justified in their request. The Chief Executive confirmed they were, but highlighted the need to balance flows to prevent bank breach whilst evacuating water to prevent flooding in the lowland system. There was a risk of flooding houses from the Environment Agency New Cut, hence the request to reduce flows entering the system.

Cllr W. Bowkett commented there were 15 hours where water levels in the river did not move and water was hitting Spilsby Road wall and coming over the banks. Houses were being pumped out and others flooded elsewhere. The EA was on site with the Board's DLO looking at options to move water.

Cllr Simpson asked what the long-term solution was. The Chief Executive stated that there may be a way for the Board to divert water around the town but this was still in the early stages. It involved rationalisation of both Board and EA assets. There had also been some discussions about use of the old culverts under the River Steeping, however, the wall holding the opposite bank required work by the EA and the brick arch culverts were very old posing a risk of failure. The Chief Executive emphasised that these were EA assets, the Board had previously agreed that the survey work lay outside the scope of its normal activities and that it was for the EA to undertake the work. The Bellwater Drain, into which this would flow, would take the water through the lowest part of the Witham Fourth catchment, and use of the culverts was not regarded by Officers as the best solution particularly when compared to rationalising the group of pumping stations surrounding Wainfleet and the ability to move water away from Thorpe Culvert and past the town itself before re-entering the Steeping river; this rationalisation is in the Board's capital programme and discussions were underway with the EA.

In response to the Chairman, the Chief Executive confirmed that maintenance work helped improve flows and the desilting works undertaken previously would have been beneficial.

In response to Cllr E. Mossop, Cllr Bowkett confirmed five houses flooded in Wainfleet but in the Steeping area 22 properties had flooded.

Mr D.R. Tagg asked if maintenance at the mouth of the river would have had any effect on improving flows. The Chief Executive stated there was silt near Clough doors and it had been previously suggested that improvements be made to the doors and a combination of those improvements implemented together could make an impact. Another thing to consider was lowering main river levels in advance of an event, the EA needed to ensure that procedures were in place at national and local levels. The Board had lowered levels in the lowland systems to improve capacity during the event.

An overview of flooding across the Consortium was presented highlighting the significant issues faced across the Consortium boards.

The Chief Executive reported that electricity costs October stood at £129,670.82 with some invoices yet to be received, November electricity costs were also likely to be high. Staff costs were not yet fully known but would be significant. Other costs would include repairs to the

damaged Case excavator, estimated at £20,000, a Ford Fiesta which had suffered engine damage and possible repairs to the panels at Austen Fen and Biergate which were being investigated. In response to Mr S.W. Eyre, Officers confirmed that some of these costs should be recoverable through insurance.

In response to members, the Chief Executive confirmed that withholding the precept in the Trent area had resulted in a full-time IDB Liaison Officer being appointed by the EA. The Officer appointed understood the arguments and had managed to get funding to increase maintenance on EA watercourses such as the Devon and Torne, this was a significant step forward. Cllr E. Mossop asked if lessons could be learned for the Lindsey Marsh area and the Chairman stated that it was hard work but progressing.

The Chief Executive had met the Vice-Chairman of the NFU and their stance was that the primary focus of highland water carriers, in these lowland (board) areas, was conveyance of water.

He had also met with Victoria Atkins MP at a public meeting in Horncastle at which the Chief Executive had stated he was keen for action on the ground and suggested a pilot scheme for low to medium priority EA watercourses to be maintained by the IDB at a standard similar to that used on Board maintained watercourses and for closer liaison between the EA and IDBs. He had explained that DEFRA commented at an ADA Policy and Finance Meeting that *'their policy was not the issue, it was the EA's interpretation that seemed to be the issue'*. The MP stated *'it was within the EA's gift to change its maintenance regime within IDB areas and still remain within the law, so why not?'* Victoria Atkins MP had asked the meeting if they would support a pilot, they had agreed.

Victoria Atkins MP had asked for details of how the Board would undertake this and the Chief Executive had sent a letter to her and the County Advisor with details.

Routine maintenance of the right standard would improve conveyance, still enhance the environment and aid recovery from flooded land. This was part of the answer but not the whole and there was still a need for bank repairs and other work to be undertaken, but, if Officers could address the environmental restrictions through the trials it would be a huge step forward. The Board had allocated funds annually to enable work on the Steeping and could adopt a similar approach for certain other watercourses.

The EA local staff were willing to listen, and the Board's Environmental Officers were writing a DRAFT annex to the EA maintenance schedule with options for two weed fringes being left, one weed fringe and no weed fringe left. If the Board could show the Environmental/Biological and WLM/Flood Risk advantages of maintenance it would give them a way forward. Considerable momentum with MPs, NFU etc. had been achieved.

In response to members, the Chief Executive confirmed there was some resistance to approval of the trial. Work was complete on Willoughby High Drain but the Board had produced an environmental review following the work. He would like to undertake work on two or three watercourses with a three to four year commitment for work.

Mr R.H. Needham asked if ADA had made representations to the opposition given possible Government changes. The Chief Executive confirmed they had and that the Shadow Flood Minister was heavily involved with the IDB in her area and had given a briefing at the ADA Conference which was very down to earth and pragmatic. ADA and the NFU were approaching both the Government and opposition.

The Chief Executive highlighted the need to get systems back to the starting line and then authorities should consider other options such as storage or making space for water.

At the ADA Conference an Italian Drainage Board representative had made a presentation in which he said 'they' had changed the landscape and therefore needed to maintain the systems they had introduced should they want to keep using the land for food production and to sustain local communities. The Chief Executive wished the EA could accept and recognise that the lowland systems in IDB areas were artificial and required to be maintained for the purposes they were built.

The Chairman highlighted the recent National Audit Office resilience to flooding report which had recognised the value of land as well as houses for grant-in-aid and realised the value of maintenance. The Chief Executive commented that the report also recommended allowing use of funds from the EA capital programme, if unused, to be used for revenue/maintenance work. Should this be achieved, it could make a considerable difference to IDB areas.

In response to members, the Operations Manager stated that the summer works were usually complete by the end of November and this was still the case despite delays caused by flooding. Mr D. Pridgeon asked if more assets would allow the Board to get maintenance completed by end of September. The Senior Operations Manager commented that there were cost implications of extra machines and staff and that the Board had employed an additional member of the DLO. Most of the summer maintenance had been completed prior to this event, however, if it had occurred earlier in the year it may have had more of an impact.

Mr W. Cooper commented on the drop in levels on Willoughby High Drain for three days work, stating there was an expense but the return was far greater than cost.

Cllr W. Bowkett offered her thanks for the Operations Team's work at Wainfleet and to those who assisted locally.

RECEIVED

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

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

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr T. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr W. Parkinson 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.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr R.H. Needham and seconded by Cllr T. Aldridge 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.

5. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T. Ashton and S. Dennis.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr J.M. Mowbray declared an interest in agenda item 21 Delegated Matters - Planning, Byelaws and Supervisory Role.

Mr R.H. Needham declared an interest in agenda item 15 Compensation.

7. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1762 to 1781)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. MATTERS ARISING

9:1 Minute 8, Page 1765 - Operations Report

An update on the sale of vehicles was provided as follows:

- (a) 2013 Ford Ranger. The vehicle had engine issues and had been sold for £1,000 including VAT.
- (b) 2013 Nissan Navara. Was sold to the highest tenderer for £5,250 including VAT.
- (c) 2015 Land Rover Defender. The vehicle had been readvertised but did not reach the expected value. Alternative options for sale were being considered.

RECEIVED

9:2 Minute 10:1, Page 1766 - Update on Wellington House

The Corporate Services Manager had approached the new owner of Tedder Hall to discuss plans for the building and site on Manby Park. A further report would be made at the January Meeting.

Cllr D. Simpson queried why access was not sorted when the property was sold by the Council. The Corporate Services Manager stated the concern was maintenance of the roads, rather than right of access. There was no formal agreement about maintenance of the roads.

RECEIVED

9:3 Minute 11:8, Page 1773 - Finance Department

It was noted that training for the Deputy Finance Manager was ongoing and due to be completed by April 2024 with the exception of preparation of estimates which would be completed during the 2025 estimates process.

RECEIVED

9:4 Minute 15, Page 1775 - Gayton Engine Pumping Station

An update was provided as follows:

The Engineering Team was preparing a specification for work to stabilise the building and were in contact with a company who specialised in restoration work. The Operations team did not consider that there had been further movement to the building. Heritage Lincolnshire had been informed and a response was awaited.

A desk top valuation for land registration purposes of £70,000 had been received for the building/site, this took into account that the building was listed, but not the state of repair.

A formal complaint had been submitted about the way the insurance claim had been handled and the advice provided by the insurer's appointed expert and they agreed to send out a different subsidence specialist on 7th December 2023.

A detailed report would be presented to the Board when the full costs of the repairs and details of the insurance claim were received. The Gayton Engine Preservation Society had some funds and would be prepared to seek grants to undertake stabilisation work, should the Board's insurers refuse the claim.

RECEIVED

9:5 Minute 18:2, Page 1778 - Section 23 Applications

Mr D.R. Tagg queried how work within nine metres of the watercourse, which was subject to slips, would affect its operation. The Senior Operations Manager would discuss the matter with Mr Tagg outside the meeting.

RECEIVED

10. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the meeting of the Consortium Committee held on the 25th October 2023 be confirmed as correct record and the resolutions be adopted by the Board.

11. JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Officers presented the attached minutes of the Joint Negotiating Committee meeting held on 25th October 2023. The proposed salary increases for 2024/25 had been well received by staff.

Officers retired to allow Members to consider the proposed 2024/25 pay increase.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting be noted.
- (b) That the recommendations of the Committee be adopted as follows:
 - (i) That with effect from 1st April 2024 all spine points be increased by £1,130 and a 6.4% cost of living payment be applied.
 - (ii) That the DLO standby payments be reviewed.
 - (iii) That the changes to the DRAFT Terms and Conditions be noted.

12. MEETING DATES

The following meeting dates were proposed:

24th January	Board Meeting
20th March	Board Meeting
15th May	Consortium Committee
15th May	Joint Negotiating Committee
26th June	Board Meeting
25th September	Board Meeting
23rd October	Consortium Committee
23rd October	Joint Negotiating Committee
27th November	Board Meeting (Annual General Meeting)

The provisional ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting dates were the 22nd February 2024 and 25th April 2024.

Other dates for note were the Lincolnshire show (19th and 20th June) and the provisional date for the ADA Annual conference was 13th November.

Mr R.H. Needham stated that the gap between the March and September meeting, with only one meeting (in June) over the six-month period was too long. The Corporate Services Manager reported that the June meeting was dictated by the need to sign off the final accounts. Mr Needham did not think that five meetings a year was enough. Mr D.R. Tagg agreed, stating there were not enough and too big a gap between meetings.

Mr G.A. Crust stated that we usually avoided July and August due to harvest. The Corporate Services Manager suggested holding a tour in between meetings.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the meeting dates for 2023 be approved and noted.
- (b) That Officers identify a suitable date and arrange a tour of inspection for 2024.

13. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that there had been no changes to legislation since the last meeting.

There had been seven incidents across the Consortium since the last meeting. Four of these were in the Lindsey Marsh area and three directly related to the heavy rainfall event.

The annual review of Safe Systems of Work and Risk Assessments was expected to be complete by the end of November.

RECEIVED

14. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Senior Operations Manager reported that flailing was 100% complete with weedcutting 86% complete. Officers were confident the programme would complete before the end of the calendar year.

The planned 2023/24 winter programme totalled 23,644 metres and work would commence at the end of the summer maintenance programme. It was expected that the programme may change following the flood event. It was noted that the proposed 2024/25 winter programme covered 26,911 metres.

Several drains were cut or sprayed during the October mitigation period in readiness for winter programme. Any mitigation works not completed would be carried forward to the second mitigation period in February 2024.

Culverting work would be undertaken at two sites; Rotten Row Theddlethorpe and Grove Road Theddlethorpe as part of the winter works programme.

Maintenance work had been completed on Willoughby High Drain, Woldgrift Drain and Wold Drain on behalf of the Environment Agency under the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.

RECEIVED

15. COMPENSATION

15:1 Compensation Claims

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £11,603.78 was presented for approval; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

15:2 Compensation Rates

Officers presented the proposed rates of compensation for forage and grain maize as follows:

Crop Type	Cost per tonne (£)	Tonnes per acre	Comp (No Notice Mar-Harvest)	Comp (No notice Sep-Feb)	Comp (with Notice)	Weedcutting (Pence per linear metre)
-----------	--------------------	-----------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	--------------------------------------

Grain Maize	213	15	3,195	2,396.25	1,597.50	3.16
Forage Maize	40	4	160.00	120.00	80.00	0.16

Members queried the tonnes per acre for grain and forage maize. Mr Cooper stated it was more like four tonnes per acre for grain maize and 15 tonnes for forage maize. Members agreed to approve the rates subject to the Senior Operations Manager checking the tons per acre.

15:3 Compensation Claim Dispute

Officers had received a dispute on the amount of Compensation offered for re-forming work carried out in March 2023, which had been offered in line with the approved 2022/23 compensation rates. The occupier had stated that the amount offered was insufficient and asked for the claim to be reviewed by the Board.

Both the value per acre for loss of land and yield per acre for oil seed rape were disputed. The Board had offered 0.01414 acres land loss at £7,350 per acre. The occupier had quoted a cost per acre of £10,000. A check of the Knight Frank Average Farmland Index Report, used to set the Board's compensation rate, confirmed the rate offered. It was important to note that the Board was not buying the land but paying compensation for loss of use/cropping and the area owned would still be included in any future sale of land.

The occupier had initially suggested that Oil Seed Rape yield was two tonnes per acre compared to the 1.4 used to calculate the compensation rate. However, when yield sheets were provided, they showed 1.6 tonnes per acre which would have increased the payment offered by £56.95 for loss of crop.

Cllr E. Mossop stated that the standard used to prepare rates was consistent in the past and asked if there had been any change this year. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed he had used the futures price as detailed in the compensation policy. Cllr Mossop stated that consistency was right suggesting it was best to meet and discuss with the occupier so they understood the wider impact of the work done and to highlight that some boards did not pay compensation.

Mr D.R. Tagg stated the Board had not diverted from its policy for some time and did not do so unless there were exceptional circumstances.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the compensation payments totalling £11,603.78 be approved.
- (b) That the rates for grain and forage maize be approved subject to tons per acre being amended.
- (c) That the Board's offer remain in line with the approved 2022/23 rates, £1,039.29 for land loss and £398.65 for crop loss.

16. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

16:1 Coastal Pumping Stations Refurbishment - Trusthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells and Saltfleet (LM19351, LM19304, LM20305 and LM20306)

(a) Trusthorpe Pumping Station

Officers reported that thirteen contractors had been contacted to gauge interest in submitting a tender for the civils works and of those, five showed interest in the project. Tenderers had viewed the site and received a brief on the required work. Tenders were formally invited on the 15th September 2023 and following an extension to the tender period, were returned on 31st October 2023. Only one tender was received. A full financial and technical adjudication of that tender was being undertaken by Officers.

It was noted that the Board's Financial Regulations required three to six formal tenders for this value of project. Officers stated that should the Board re-tender the works, it was unlikely to generate additional returns, the construction window of March to November 2024 would be missed and there would be an increased risk of failure to provide the appropriate level of protection across the catchment.

The tenderer had been invited to make a presentation on delivery of the works to the Tender Review and Award Committee on 29th November 2023. Subject to a recommendation from the Tender Review and Award Committee and funding being available, the Board was recommended to grant delegated authority to Committee to award a contract for the civils works up to a value of £2,203,848.60.

The Chief Executive commented that this would mean the award of a £2.2million contract with only one tender. Given the situation and that the Senior Engineer had compared the tender to market, he undertook to contact the Board's internal auditor for an opinion on the Board's position. Should the internal auditor consider the risk to be too high, award of the tender would not proceed.

The Senior Engineer stated that the control panel and pumps were built and paid for with suppliers waiting for the construction work to allow install.

The Senior Engineer confirmed that the work was quite complicated and substantial modifications to the site were required. A third to half of the contract cost was for provision of over-pumping to maintain the level of service provided by the station - over 170 properties were at risk if over-pumping failed. The cost of over-pumping was around £16,000 per week over 33 weeks plus additional mobilisation costs.

Mr W. Cooper asked if there was a barrier to tendering due to unknown risk and cost of over pumping. The Senior Engineer stated that there would be savings on the contract if the over-pumping was not needed for as long.

Mr Cooper asked if splitting the contract for civils work and over-pumping would result in more tenders. The Senior Engineer stated it would not and highlighted the risk of contractual issues. In response to members, the Senior Engineer confirmed that Officers were considering options to purchase over pumping

assets but the lead time on these meant there would be insufficient time available should the scheme go ahead.

The tender was higher than originally budgeted but there was the option to fund the increased cost of this scheme through flood defence grant-in-aid.

Mr S.W. Eyre asked, if the scheme was put off one year, would the Board be able to get its own over-pumping in place. The Chief Executive stated that, ideally, it would be good to reschedule the scheme and to use the Board's own over-pumping but the scheme was already delayed. There had only been two tenders for Saltfleet and cheapest was double the price expected. It was therefore recommended to proceed.

Cllr W. Parkinson stated it was an unusual situation to only have one tender but the length Officers had been to and the paper trail proved they had tried and if the Chief Executive contacted the auditor too it covered all bases.

The Chief Executive stated that ideally it would be good to reschedule the scheme and to use the Board's own over-pumping but the scheme was already delayed. There had only been two tenders for Saltfleet and cheapest was double the price expected. It was therefore recommended to proceed.

There was an indicative allocation for £2,035,000 of additional FDGiA and following the return of tender, the request for additional funding could be completed and submitted to the Environment Agency. This would bring the total scheme budget to £3.884M with £2.499M available for the civils works.

Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett proposed delegated authority be given to award the tender, stating that Officers had taken all of the relevant steps.

RESOLVED

That delegated authority be given to the Tender Review and Award Committee to award the tender for Trusthorpe Pumping Station civils works at a cost of £2,203,848.60, subject to the Chief Executive obtaining approval from the Internal Auditor.

(b) Saltfleet Pumping Station including Greyfleet to Gents Canal Water Transfer Structure

Officers reported that JN Bentley Limited's demobilisation from site was completed on 8th September 2023. The refurbished Bosker weed grab was still experiencing some issues and remedials were ongoing with AIM Electrical Limited. Full training for staff on the new equipment was postponed in September and was planned to be completed during November.

Commercial negotiations with JN Bentley Limited had concluded and the total scheme costs so far were within budget, however, a report on final out-turn costs would be brought to the January meeting.

RECEIVED

(c) Anderby Pumping Station

Officers reported that installation of the new fish friendly pumps was now complete. Testing and commissioning of the new pumps was undertaken between 30th October and 1st November and the new pumps had proved to be very effective during storm Ciaran.

The site was handed back to the Board following removal of the temporary over-pumping. There were a few communication issues with the telemetry which remained the focus for resolution.

Training for the staff on the new equipment was planned for late November.

RECEIVED

(d) Ingoldmells Pumping Station

Tenders for the civils works were being prepared with a planned return, adjudication and recommendation to the March Board meeting.

The out-turn costs for Anderby and Saltfleet had informed a revaluation of the cost to complete Ingoldmells and it was anticipated £1.7M of additional funds would be required. The majority of these costs were related to the temporary over-pumping. Provision had been made within the 2024/2025 estimates whilst options for lowering the civils work costs were being explored, however, there were no additional outcome measure benefits to claim against within the catchment to increase flood defence grant-in-aid.

RECEIVED

(e) Expenditure to date

The following committed costs to date were presented:

<i>Pumping Station</i>	<i>Committed Expenditure</i>	<i>Estimated scheme costs (Total)</i>
Saltfleet (LM19351)	£4,139,042	£4,229,388
Gents Canal to Mardyke (LM22351)	£265,993	£327,746
TOTAL	£4,405,035	£4,557,134
Trusthorpe (LM19304)	£1,392,918	£1,849,692
Ingoldmells (LM20305)	£1,241,413	£2,575,000
Anderby (LM20306)	£2,011,596	£2,187,750

RECEIVED

16:2 Pumping Stations – Emergency Repairs (LM23302)

(a) Wainfleet Sea Lane Pumping Station

During Storm Babet, one of the pumps at Wainfleet Sea Lane Pumping Station stopped working. The Board's DLO, with North Lincs Engineering, removed the failed pump for investigation and repair. On stripping down the pump, water

ingress was found within the motor housing causing the failure. The motor was dried out, reassembled with new seals and re-installed. Costs were expected to be in the region of £15,000.

RECEIVED

17. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for members consideration.

17:2 Management Accounts for the 30th September 2023

The 2023/24 estimates allowed for a surplus budget of £395,460, however, the current predicted outturn position at the year-end was estimated to be a surplus of £666,493.87. This was an estimate based on current weighted spending and may decrease. Electricity had been estimated at an underspend of £59,000 and this was likely to be £25,000 given the increased bills for October. The cost per unit at some sites had decreased from the 1st October which reduced the impact of the increased pumping.

The current predicted cash surplus at 31st March 2024 was expected to be £1,645,160.60 or 34.65% of net operating costs.

Mr W. Cooper queried that £128,000 spend on electricity in October had only had a £30,000 impact on the overall spend. The Finance Manager stated that prior to October expenditure was lower than expected. The weighted budgets to October had allowed for £100,000 electricity spend and, provided rainfall remained average, she was hopeful that spending would be near to budget.

The Senior Engineer reported that the estimates had included a 40% increase in electricity costs from October however the actual increase would be lower as indications from the supplier were that rates would drop in October 2024 but standing charges would increase.

RESOLVED

That the Management Variance Accounts for 31st August 2023 be approved.

17:3 Progress of External Audit

Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd were unable to appoint an auditor at this time. They had sent out tenders, but the current suppliers did not have the resources to take on additional accounts, there was such a backlog that the companies were not taking on new orders. A review was ongoing at national level of how to deal with audits. If they could not place the contract with a firm they had to notify the Secretary of State who could force someone to undertake the audit.

Officers were still discussing the matter with DEFRA and trying to get the Department for Levelling Up to look into the audit which would cost the Board a significant amount and leave the Board with unaudited accounts for some time.

The Finance Manager commented that the small company audit threshold was £11M but for Local Authorities it was £6.5M therefore the threshold for Local Authorities needed to be reviewed and increased.

RECEIVED

17:4 Cash Balances and Borrowings as at 31st October 2023

The Finance Manager reported that the Board had £5,841,475.84 held across five accounts.

There were currently no loans outstanding. The Board was asked to approve the application for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board of £591,000, towards Saltfleet Pumping Station Refurbishment and £210,000, towards Anderby Pumping Station Refurbishment. The current rate of annuity interest for a 20-year loan was 5.22%, however, the rate changed daily.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's cash balances and borrowings be noted.
- (b) That the Board apply for loans of £591,000 for Saltfleet Pumping Station Refurbishment and £210,000 for Anderby Pumping Station Refurbishment from the Public Works Loan Board.

17:5 Payments over £500

A schedule of payments over £500 made since the last meeting totalling £2,014,908.52 was presented for members information.

RESOLVED

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

Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett left the meeting.

18. INVESTMENTS

18:1 Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

Officers had been advised that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme did not protect public authority deposits, including parish councils, unless it was a small local authority with an income or annual budget of less than 500,000.00 Euros. Any investments or bank/building society account held by the Board would not be covered by the £85,000 protection scheme.

RESOLVED

That the Board note its savings were not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

18:2 Placing Investments

The Board previously agreed to invest the sum of £210,000 for a period of six months. However, Officers had been advised that those Building Societies with an “A” rating were not receiving investments less than £250,000. Whilst subject to change, Nationwide Building Society was offering 5.18% for a fixed 6-month term deposit, a £250,000 deposit would achieve interest of £12,950 annually.

It was recommended that the initial investment amount be increased to £250,000 and placed via BGC in an appropriate “A” rated Building Society.

The Nationwide Building Society also had Business Saver accounts available to those below a £10m turnover, which the Board could open directly. The Nationwide Business Instant Saver account was offering a variable interest rate, currently 2.25% AER (Annual Equivalent Rate) and the Business 35 Day Saver a variable interest rate, currently 3.10% AER. The minimum deposit was £5,000 with unlimited withdrawals although access to funds was via a signed document and would require the appropriate mandate signatures to access funds, albeit with instant access. A £250,000 deposit in the Instant Saver would achieve interest of £5,625 annually and £7,750 in the 35 Day Saver. A £500,000 deposit in the 35 Day Saver would achieve interest of £15,500.

Nationwide also offered a Business 95 Day Saver with a variable interest rate, currently 3.80% AER (Annual Equivalent Rate).

Mr W. Cooper asked what protection there was if the Broker became insolvent. The Finance Manager confirmed that the investments would be in the Board’s name.

Mr D. Pridgeon queried why the Board was borrowing funds at 5.2% interest and investing at a lower interest rate. The Finance Manager explained that funds being invested were already allocated to schemes but were not expected to be consumed in the short term so allowed the Board to gain an income until that time. There remained insufficient funds in General Reserves to avoid taking loans.

In response to members, the Finance Manager confirmed that no fees were payable to BGC. The Board received the agreed interest rate and any interest above this was kept by the broker.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve the investment of £250,000 with an “A” rated building society via the brokers BGC.
- (b) That an Instant Access Business Saver account be opened with Nationwide Building Society.
- (c) That a 35 Day Access Business Saver account be opened with Nationwide Building Society and amount of £500,000 be deposited.

Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett left the meeting.

19. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £999,162.53 had been collected in respect of drainage rates and £3,074,089 special levies up to the 9th November 2023 giving a combined collection rate of 75.21%.

Some revaluations had been completed two of which resulted in a total rate decrease of £4,596.56, the results of some other revaluations were awaited.

RECEIVED

20. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The following updates were given:

20:1 The Environment Act 2021 - Biodiversity Duty Guidance - New Guidance

The Government had delayed the mandatory implementation of BNG and the Board was exempt from the requirement to provide to 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) but agreed to implement it for Byelaw and Section 23 Consent Applications from November 2023.

The 10% BNG was not viable for the Board as part of its own operations as it would for example involve cutting new watercourses (plus 10%) for any culverting work. The cost implications would have been significant, included using external ecologists and implementing 30 year plans for the sites. However, Officers could use the BNG framework to determine the best way to deliver biodiversity enhancements and there were some quick and inexpensive ways to do this such as swallow-cups and bat boxes.

20:2 Updating of the Board's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The Board's 2010 BAP was being reviewed and updated with completion expected by early January 2024. The DRAFT BAP, a single document for the Consortium with relevant schedules for each Board, would be presented at the January meeting for adoption. The species covered by the BAP would be expanded to include those recorded by the Operations Team.

20:3 National Trust - Wetland Nature Reserve Former Sandilands Golf Course

The National Trust's hydrological report had been shared with Officers, they plan to commence wetting the site in December 2024/January 2025, with any applications for consents likely to be submitted to the Board in Spring / Summer 2024 for consideration. Officers continued to monitor the development of the proposal closely and were engaged in the project meetings.

20:4 Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Local Nature Recovery Strategies, designed to guide action for nature recovery were introduced by the Environment Act 2021 to help achieve the targets set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan.

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Recovery Strategy was being developed in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East

Lincolnshire Council and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership. The Strategy would include a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and a Local Habitat Map. A survey on priorities was currently open for comment, the link to which was shared with members.

20:5 Badgers - Division Drain

A Badger sett, recently established over a culverted section of the Board's Division Drain, was exacerbating the failure of the bank and culvert and had the potential to obstruct flows. Natural England had granted a license for Badger exclusion works which were taking place. When the Badgers had moved on repairs would be undertaken.

20:6 Barn Owls

The impact of buzzard population on Barn Owl numbers was currently unproven and the number of adult barn owls nationally was stable at around 1,200 pairs. While some buzzards did kill adult barn owls, this was thought to occur more often in bad weather and it was believed to be a few buzzards who had developed a specialism for barn owl predation. The low number of chicks observed in 2023 reflected a widespread pattern and was related to the cyclic nature of the field vole population.

20:7 Mink Control

Between the 1st November 2022 and 31st October 2023, 21 mink had been caught in the Board's district (Wainfleet 12, Great Eau 3 and Waithe Beck 6). The Waterlife Recovery Trust had been awarded £500,000 from Natural England's Species Recovery Programme for mink control from the Thames to mid Lincolnshire. The Essex Wildlife Trust and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust had contributed an additional £288,000 to this project.

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership were successful in their bid to the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Farming in Protected Landscapes fund. This would allow the deployment of 50 traps across the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Board's District to eradicate mink. The Board's current funding for mink control was supporting this project as match-funding.

20:8 Electronic Recording

Over 1,000 records had been submitted so far in 2023, in comparison to the 687 records submitted in 2021 and 747 in 2022. The improvements in recording would be valuable in reflecting targets within the revised BAP.

The Senior Engineer commented that continuous monitoring was important for the water vole and badger class licences. The Chief Executive commented that the Environmental Officers were also preparing an Annex to the Environment Agency policy to show how maintenance work could benefit the Environment and flows. Cllr D. Simpson asked if this would be brought to the Board for comment. The Chief Executive confirmed it would be presented to the Board but this may be after it had been sent to the Environment Agency.

The Environmental Officer also reported that the option to introduce Hydroseeding on watercourse banks was being investigated as this would speed up re-establishment of vegetation and habitat following work on banks. Discussions were ongoing with other Internal Drainage Boards to see if there was an option to jointly purchase equipment to make

the process cost effective. The Senior Engineer pointed out that as well as the environmental benefit this could reduce slips/ bank erosion and improve stability. The Chief Executive stated that the Board had used the technique previously.

RESOLVED

That delivery of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain be delayed reviewed in April 2024.

21. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

21:1 Byelaw Applications

No byelaw applications had been dealt with under delegated authority since the last Board meeting.

RECEIVED

21:2 Section 23 Applications

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

LMDB/LDC/2022/021 Installation of a concrete canvas, in field to the south of Firsby Road at National Grid Reference 542321 - 364831 in the parish of Halton Hologate.

LMDB/LDC/2023/040, 64-66 Installation of headwall structures for surface water discharge, at land to the east of Louth Road, at National Grid References 528630 - 403406, 528880 - 403002, 528565 - 403322 and 528567 - 403191 in the parish of Holton le Clay.

LMDB/LDC/2023/073 Installation of 12 linear metres of 600 mm diameter access culvert, at land to the south of Thurlby Road, at National Grid Reference 548243 - 376047 in the parish of Bilsby.

The following Section 23 consents had been granted by the Board on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority since the last meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2023/068 Installation of 23 linear metres of 600 mm diameter access culvert, at Village Farm, Hanby Lane, at National Grid Reference 547097 - 371741 in the parish of Willoughby with Sloothby.

LMDB/LDC/2023/069 Repair works to an existing culvert, at land off Spring View, Black Springs, at National Grid Reference 517995 - 397391 in the parish of Thoresway.

RECEIVED

21:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on 25 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were provided.

RECEIVED

22. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

There was nothing further to report.

RECEIVED

Messrs D.R. Tagg and R.H. Needham left the meeting.

23. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

23:1 Plant Purchased/Sold During 2023/24 Update

The net spend to date for 2023/24 was £476,858.80. Of this, £195,831.63 had been taken from the Plant Reserve Budget brought forward as detailed in the attached Appendix 1.

The plant and equipment purchased and sold during the 2023/24 budget year were detailed in Appendix 2.

The expected delivery date for the new Volvo excavator had been delayed until March 2024. Suppliers had indicated the delay was due to the bespoke nature of the specification. Mr S.W. Eyre asked if the delay would impact on costs and trade in value. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed costs would remain the same.

The three heavy duty weedbaskets purchased in June were used during the summer cutting season and had minimal wear and tear. Officers expected that a minimal amount of ongoing maintenance would be required, which would reduce expenditure on spare parts.

Officers were able to source an ex-rental mobile fuel bowser at a significantly reduced cost, and in effect included a reduction equivalent to the rentals previously paid on the bowser.

The refurbishment of the 6" Betsy mobile pump was due to be completed shortly with testing in mid-November and delivery expected shortly after. A loan pump was provided by DXB was used during the flood event and positive feedback was received regarding the pump's performance and ease of use.

The Senior Operations Manager reported that DXB had approached him about storage of some pumps at the Board's depot to allow improved mobilisation. They were looking for a 5-year agreement which would allow the Board, or other customers to use the pumps if needed. Discussions were in the early stages but could provide additional cover. The Board would get first refusal on use of the pumps but details of how this would work if the pumps were already in use by another party had not been established. A full report would be made to the Board once full details were available.

RECEIVED

23:2 Proposed Plant Replacement 2024/25 Programme

Following a review of plant, the Senior Operations Manager proposed that the following plant items be replaced during 2024/25;

(a) Volvo EC220EL Excavator Replacement

The Volvo EC220EL Excavator (EU67AYW) was seven years old and due for disposal in 2024/25 in line with the Board's replacement policy, the excavator had covered 7,107 hours. The estimated cost for replacing the excavator was £215,000 less disposal of the current excavator for an estimated £30,000. The disposal figure was slightly conservative given the volatile market.

(b) Massey Ferguson 7720 Tractor and Herder Grenadier Replacement

The Massey Ferguson 7720 (YX16CWV) was suffering several mechanical issues, including a cracked engine block and it was recommended that disposal be brought forward to the 2024/25. Estimated costs of replacing the engine were around £18,000 with the tractor residual value being £20,000 (including the fitted flail). The purchase of a new tractor was estimated to be in the region of £145,000.

The Herder Grenadier flail (PLN7142) was purchased in 2016 and would have completed eight cutting seasons by the end of November 2023. The flail required a full set of pins and bushes and cracks to its boom had been repaired in recent months. The purchase of a new flail was estimated to be in the region of £145,000.

Tenders for the replacement of the tractor and flail had been sought for a like for like replacement and for the purchase of a self-propelled mowing machine. This had been undertaken in advance of the meeting as a 4-7% price increase was expected in January.

Eleven suppliers had been approached and following review of the tenders, Officers recommended the purchase of a Herder One self-propelled machine at a cost of £279,500 plus five year warranty at a cost of £20,750. This had been offered at a significantly reduced cost as the manufacturer was looking to bring the machine into use in the UK. The value offered for the trade-in was £37,000, £17,000 more than originally budgeted. The net cost would be £263,250 plus additional service costs against the originally proposed tractor and flail net purchase value of £270,000.

The cost of warranty on the Herder One was high but was based on the retail value of the machine and a discount had been offered reducing this from £22,800 to £20,750.

The overall cost to purchase a Valtra tractor and Herder flail was around £12,600 lower when taking into account warranty costs and trade in value. However, the Herder One was expected to be at least 25% more efficient across the ground as its rotating cab and mowing head enabled the machine to cut in both forward and reverse directions. The machine also offered improved ergonomics and visibility.

Officers had trialled the Herder One and were confident that if the efficiency savings that Mastenbroek suggested were realised, the planned purchase of a tractor and flail in 2025/26 could be removed and substituted with the purchase of a smaller towing tractor for leading of materials and waste.

This would reduce the planned spend in 2025/26 by £145,000 for the new flail and around a further £20,000 if purchasing a smaller horsepower tractor.

In response to members, the Senior Operations Manager confirmed that the machine was being built to order and delivery was expected after 1st April 2024. He also confirmed that he was confident the machine had sufficient clearance for rutted ground, that the machine had the same head as the current flail, he did not however have a guide on the future potential trade-in value at this time.

The Chief Executive asked if, as with other machines, a guaranteed buy back could be considered and for clarification that there was a conveyor on the cutting head. The Operations Manager confirmed there was a conveyor stating that the discount received would offset some of the machine depreciation.

Mr Mowbray and Mr Eyre proposed that the Board purchase the Herder One instead of the planned tractor and flail.

Mr W. Cooper queried that cheaper tenders had been received for supply of Energreen machines. The Senior Operations Manager stated that, whilst cheaper, the Energreen did not have a differential lock, had small tyres and was in line with the flail head. The Operations Manager stated that there were issues with reliability and the Senior Operations Manager agreed, adding that spare parts took 5-6 weeks to arrive and the machine was very susceptible to bad weather.

The Senior Engineer commented that, when purchasing the Energreen in the Isle of Axholme Board, operatives had preferred to be facing the watercourse and the machine had covered more meterage than a tractor and flail.

(c) Environment Officer Vehicle Replacement

The Ford Fiesta FX18 TZX was due for disposal in 2027/25 in line with the Boards replacement policy. The vehicle had covered 64,972 miles and was being assessed for engine damage following it being driven through deep water in the recent heavy rainfall. An initial assessment by the garage indicated it may be beyond economic repair.

(d) Mobile Pump Refurbishment

Subject to the successful refurbishment of the 6 inch Betsy by DXB Officers recommend that the remaining pumps be refurbished in the same manner. The expected replacements costs of the three remaining pumps would be in the region of £200,000, however, refurbishment costs were estimated to be in the region of £25,000 per six-inch pump and £30,000 per twelve-inch.

(e) Small Tools

The provision of a small tools allowance of £10,000 pounds to allow for in year repairs and purchases of replacement items.

An allowance of £13,000 had been included to replace the current plotter printer which allowed the Board to print plans over A3 size, the plotter was experiencing issues and reaching the end of its working life.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Board purchase a Herder One at a cost of £279,500 plus five years warranty at £20,750, less trade in of the Massey Ferguson tractor and Flail at £37,000.
- (ii) That a provision of £485,500 for plant replacement be made in the 2024/25 estimates

23:3 Plant Replacement Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30

The planned plant replacements for 2025/26 to 2029/30 was presented for members information.

RECEIVED

23:4 Major Plant Items Schedule

An update on the current large plant items including current mileage, hours and general condition was presented for members information.

RECEIVED

24. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2024/25

The Finance Manager presented the DRAFT Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2024/25 along with the attached DRAFT five-year plan. When setting the 2023/24 rate the anticipated rise for 2024/25 had been 2%, however, the 2023/24 outturn position had improved and a 0.75% increase for 2024/25 and the following two years was anticipated to be sufficient to meet expenditure with the amount in 2024/25 to be funded by rates and special levies estimated to be £5,506,061.

Key areas of note were:

- (a) Board contributions to engineering projects at £777,000.
- (b) Pumping station expenditure £795,502.
- (c) Plant renewals £635,500, £485,500 expenditure plus £150,000 to add to the plant reserve to smooth future purchases.
- (d) Drain maintenance and reforming £1,024,015 of which £222,625 was rated.
- (e) Loan repayments £66,727.
- (f) Direct Labour Organisation costs (includes wages, training etc) £1,033,578.
- (g) Support and establishment costs £605,622, which included £101,500 of audit fees.

- (h) Salaried staff costs £2,217,640, which was offset by Consortium income estimated to be £744,335.
- (i) Other income (e.g. interest and highland water contribution) was estimated to be £181,104.

A 0.75% rate rise would increase the rate from 21.22 p/£ to 21.38 p/£. This would increase the agricultural drainage rates receipts from £1,310,880 to £1,317,996; an increase of £7,116. Applying the percentage 0.75% increase to the special levies would increase the receipts from £4,104,093 to £4,210,879, an increase of £106,786, giving an overall rates and special levies increase of £113,902. This would result in a surplus budget of £22,814 and increase the surplus cash reserve to £1,691,095, equating to 30.71% of operating costs.

Alternative options for a 7% (£366,752 surplus budget), 5% increase (a £255,553 surplus budget) and 0.35% (deficit budget of £461) were presented.

The Finance Manager reported that a rate increase of 1%, based upon the 2023/24 annual land values, would increase income by £53,588. Due to changes in land values, a 1% increase in the rate, based upon 2024/25 annual values, would increase income by £126,832 meaning that £73,244 per 1% increase was attributed to the changes in land values rather than the increase in the rates and was outside the Board's control.

The 5-year plan showed future increase predictions, but the Finance Manager highlighted that if loan interest rates dropped in the coming years the anticipated increases may be reviewed.

Mr W. Cooper queried annual values on poultry units. The Finance Manager stated that some had been revalued and this may result in decreases or increases to rates. Mr Cooper stated this may become an issue if occupiers could not pay due to reduced income from bird flu.

The Chief Executive asked members for views on the proposed increase of 0.75%.

Cllr D. Simpson stated that increasing little and often was better than having to make large increases.

Cllr E. Mossop stated that last year's increase was exceptional and a hard hit for farmers and special levy payers, it was timely to go back to an appropriate level which retained reserves at the required level and he supported the proposed 0.75% increase.

Mr R.N. Crust stated that initially another increase would not be wanted but the increase was reasonable to reduce the risk of flooding.

Mr S.W. Eyre stated it was fair to keep with in the 30% reserve policy as, should this slip, greater increases would be required in the future.

RESOLVED

That the estimates of income and expenditure for 2024/25 be prepared based on a 0.75% increase for consideration at the January Meeting.

Minutes of a meeting to discuss the recent flood event, followed the Annual General Meeting of Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board held on 22nd November 2023.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN

PLANT BUDGETS BROUGHT FORWARD 2021-23

APPENDIX 1

Purchase		Dispose	
Estimate	Actual	Estimate	Actual
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LME) (PLN7472)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£2,016.67
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CCK) (PLN7445)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LML) (PLN7477)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£2,016.67
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CCO) (PLN7446)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LMJ) (PLN7474)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£2,016.66
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CCV) (PLN7447)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LMF) (PLN7473)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£1,833.33
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CCZ) (PLN7449)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LMU) (PLN7478)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£666.67
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CDK) (PLN7452)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LMK) (PLN7475)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£1,000.00
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CDE) (PLN7453)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LMM) (PLN7479)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£1,083.33
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CDF) (PLN7454)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 LMY) (PLN7476)	£11,500	£12,351.03	£1,000.00
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CCN) (PLN7455)			£500
Toyota Proace Active Van (FY23 UAL) (PLN7480)	£11,500	£12,351.03	TBC
Peugeot Bipper (FY12 CCX) (PLN7448)			£500
Toyota Hilux Icon (FY73 WGP) (PLN7483)	£45,000	£26,971.34	TBC
Landrover (FY15 VGE) (PLN7458)			£5,000
Toyota Hilux Icon (FY73 WGU) (PLN7484)	£25,000	£26,971.34	£4,375.00
Nissan Navara (FT13 AOD) (PLN7456)			£2,500
Toyota Hilux Icon (FY73 WGO) (PLN7482)	£16,000	£26,971.34	£833.33
Ford Ranger (FX63 OAW) (PLN7457)			£2,500
GPS equipment Trimble R12i GNSS	£20,000	£20,600.00	£0
No Disposal			£0
3D Scanner	£35,000	TBC	£0
6" Mobile Pump (to be refurbished rather than replaced)	£30,000		£5,000
Betsy Mobile Pump (PLN7944) (now refurbished instead of disposal)			
Sub Totals	£274,500	£212,673.29	£19,500
NET PLANT SPEND	£255,000	£195,831.63	£16,841.66

PLANT PURCHASED/SOLD DURING 2023/24

APPENDIX 2

Purchase			Dispose		
	Estimate	Actual		Estimate	Actual
Massey Ferguson Dyna-6 Tractor (FV23 DBO) (PLN7349)	£108,000	£107,319.83	Massey Ferguson 7618 (YX15AFY) (PLN7344)	£25,000	£25,000
Herder Grenadier MBKL523LSH (PLN7192)	£132,000	£137,900.00	Herder Multi Pro Flail (PLN7135)	£15,000	£8,500
16t Tracked Excavator	£230,000	TBC	Volvo 160E Excavator (EU66CWC) (PLN7054)	£40,000	TBC
Toyota Hilux Icon (FY73 WGV) (PLN7481)	£0	£26,971.34	No Disposal		
950ltr Transcube Fuel Bowser (PLN7543)	£2,300	£2,300.00	No Disposal		
Trailer for Fuel Bowser (PLN7544)	£5,700	£3,500.00	No Disposal		
Addison Chop Saw (PLN7986)	£4,106	£4,106.00	No Disposal		
Topcon Laser Level (PLN7985)	£660	£660.00	No Disposal		
Herder MRZZT430B Mowing Bucket (PLN7189)	£11,000	£10,590.00	Redundant Weedbasket (PLN7179)	£1,500	TBC
Herder MRZZT430B Mowing Bucket (PLN7190)	£0	£10,590.00	No Disposal		
Herder MRZZT430B Mowing Bucket (PLN7191)	£0	£10,590.00	No Disposal		
Tools Allowance (items over £500)	£5,234				
Sub Totals	£499,000	£314,527.17		£81,500	£33,500
NET PLANT SPEND	£417,500	£281,027.17			

PROPOSED PLANT PURCHASES 2024/25

APPENDIX 3

2024/25

<i>Purchase</i>		<i>Dispose</i>			
	Estimate	Actual		Estimate	Actual
Tracked Excavator	£215,000		Volvo EC220EL Excavator (EU67AYW) (PLN7055)	£30,000	
Tractor and Flail	£290,000		MF7720 Tractor and Flail (YX16CWV) (PLN7345) (PLN7142)	£20,000	
Small Van (Environmental Officer)	£17,000		Ford Fiesta (FX18TZX) (PLN7463)	£1,000	
Plotter (Engineering Department)	£13,000		No Disposal		
Tools Allowance (items over £500)	£5,000				
			Redundant Weedbaskets x 2 (PLN7180 PLN7181)	£3,000	
			Redundant Air Compressor (PLN7952)	£500	
<i>Sub Totals</i>	£540,000			£54,500	
NET SPEND	£485,500				

**PLANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME
2025/26 TO 2029/30**

APPENDIX 4

2025/26

Purchase			Dispose		
	Estimate	Actual		Estimate	Actual
Tractor and Flail	£260,000		New Holland 6080 Tractor and Flail (FX61FYL) (PLN7343 PLN7141)	£30,000	
Weed Basket	£12,000		No Disposal	£0	
Surveyors Van	£17,000		Citroen Nemo Van (FY67VGV) (PLN7462)	£500	
4 x 4 Pick Up (Ops Manager)	£30,000		Ford Ranger (YR19DWS) (PLN7464)	£3,250	
4 x 4 Pick Up (AUTO)	£30,000		Ford Ranger (YP19KRB) (PLN7465)	£3,250	
Vehicle Trailer	£4,000		lfor Williams Trailer (PLN7526)	£500	
Tools Allowance (items over £500)	£5,000				
<i>Sub Totals</i>	£358,000			£37,500	
NET SPEND	£320,500				

2026/27

Purchase			Dispose		
	Estimate	Actual		Estimate	Actual
Tracked Excavator	£250,000		Volvo EC220EL Excavator (EF19RAU) (PLN7056)	£40,000	
Tractor and Flail	£270,000		MF7720S Tractor and Flail (YX18 FYK) (PLN7347) (PLN7143)	£40,000	
Weed basket	£12,000		Redundant Weed Basket	£1,000	
4 x 4 Pick Up	£28,000		Ford Ranger (YS69MVT) (PLN7466)	£2,500	
4 x 4 Pick Up	£28,000		Ford Ranger (YP69UGF) (PLN7467)	£2,500	
Tools Allowance (items over £500)	£5,000				
<i>Sub Totals</i>	£593,000			£86,000	
NET SPEND	£507,000				

2027/28

Purchase			Dispose		
	Estimate	Actual		Estimate	Actual
Wheeled Excavator	£240,000		Liebherr Excavator (LT70WLL) (PLN7058)	£40,000	
Pump Attendant Vehicle	£30,000		Vauxhall Movano Van (YE70LBX) (PLN7468)	£3,000	
4 x 4 Pick Up (Resident Engineer)	£28,000		Mitsubishi L200 (AF19KCA) (PLN7470)	£2,500	
Loader Tractor	£100,000		New Holland T190 (FX17CNV) (PLN7346)	£20,000	
Forestry Mowing Head	£15,000		Forestry Mowing Head (PLN7151)	£150	
Weed Trailer	£20,000		Marston Dump Trailer (PLN7536)	£500	
Hook Loader Trailer Flat Rack	£10,000		Larrington Flat Bed Trailer (PLN7528)	£1,000	
Tools Allowance (items over £500)	£5,000				
<i>Sub Totals</i>	£448,000			£67,150	
NET SPEND	£380,850				

2028/29

Purchase			Dispose		
	Estimate	Actual		Estimate	Actual
14t Excavator	£240,000		Volvo ECR235 (EF21 XUE) (PLN7061)	£40,000	
Weedboat	£80,000		Weedboat Conver C240 (PLN7202)	£15,000	
Electricians Vehicle	£32,000		Vauxhall Movano (YB71 AMX) (PLN7469)	£3,000	
Ifor Williams Abei Mower Trailer	£4,500		Ifor Williams Abei Mower Trailer (PLN7535)	£500	
Stihl MS362 CM 15" Chainsaw	£700		Stihl MS362 CM 15" Chainsaw (PLN7956)	£25	
Stihl MS261 CM 15" Chainsaw	£700		Stihl MS261 CM 15" Chainsaw (PLN7957)	£25	
Tools Allowance (items over £500)	£5,000				
<i>Sub Totals</i>	£362,900			£58,550	
NET SPEND	£304,350				

2029/30

Purchase		Dispose		
	Estimate	Actual	Estimate	Actual
20t Tracked Excavator	£240,000		£20,000	
4 x 4 Pick Up	£30,000		£4,000	
4 x 4 Pick Up	£30,000		£4,000	
Tools Allowance	£5,000			
Sub Totals	£305,000		£28,000	
NET SPEND	£277,000			

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD
Estimate 5 Year Summary

Year	Actual 2022/23	Estimate 2023/24	Estimate 2024/25 1	Estimate 2025/26 2	Estimate 2026/27 3	Estimate 2027/28 4	Estimate 2028/29 5
Scheme Income / Expenditure - Earmarked funds							
Board Contribution to Schemes from Rating income	847,700.00	467,700	777,000	692,000	514,000	554,000	494,000
Balance Sheet Income or Expenditure							
Plant Renewals (Additions less disposals)	314,782.10	417,500	485,500	320,500	507,000	380,850	304,350
Plant Reserves - funds added to Plant Reserves	0.00	0	150,000	150,000	0	0	0
Plant Renewals Funded from Plant Reserves	-50,000.00	-100,000	0	0	0	0	0
Plant renewals (not purchased in planned year but will occur in later year)	45,000.00						
Plant renewals (to be funded out of plant reserves as funds held over)	-33,295.00						
Loan Capital Repayments - existing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan Capital Repayments - future loans	0	12,348	22,700	76,147	93,433	108,869	120,508
	276,487.10	329,848	658,200	546,647	600,433	489,719	424,858
Income & Expenditure Account							
Non-scheme Expenditure:							
Activity & Direct Costs							
Pumping Station Costs	654,055.65	882,788	795,502	811,380	834,755	858,808	883,557
Pumping Station 22/23 Electric Additional costs							
Drain Maintenance Works - incl Reforming from 23/24	583,698.61	1,022,354	1,024,015	1,075,215	1,102,095	1,129,648	1,157,889
PSCA Works	310,754.41	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Other recharge Works	6,749.42	4,550	0	0	0	0	0
Engineers Costs to be invoiced	163,493.75	213,756	216,749	222,167	227,722	233,415	239,250
Consenting Costs	91,274.50	78,000	124,812	127,932	131,130	134,409	137,770
Disbursement Expenses	89,414.14	74,126	78,116	0	0	0	0
	1,899,440.48	2,712,722	2,271,194	2,268,694	2,327,702	2,388,280	2,450,466
Supportive Expenditure							
Plant Running Costs	394,701.87	375,925	342,699	351,010	359,528	368,258	377,203
DLO Wages	750,769.12	825,408	1,003,198	1,028,279	1,053,986	1,080,336	1,107,345
DLO Costs	22,237.83	28,790	30,380	31,140	31,918	32,716	33,534
Support & Establishment Costs	527,171.31	431,546	605,622	631,129	643,710	660,677	678,041
Salaried staff costs	1,753,501.48	2,064,590	2,217,640	2,271,514	2,328,270	2,386,441	2,446,066
Finance & Bank Charges	1,726.69	1,610	1,920	1,968	2,017	2,068	2,120
Loan Interest Repayments - existing	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan Interest Repayments - future loans	0.00	18,636	44,027	144,277	165,103	179,656	184,053
Other costs - incl cost of stocks	21,597.79	8,350	9,284	9,698	9,927	10,161	10,402
EA Precept	450,451.00	450,451	450,451	450,451	450,451	450,451	450,451
	3,922,157.09	4,205,306	4,705,221	4,919,466	5,044,910	5,170,764	5,289,215
Total Expenditure plus contributions to schemes	6,945,784.67	7,715,576	8,411,615	8,426,807	8,487,045	8,602,763	8,658,539
Income							
Highland water	-64,193.77	-128,774	-105,084	-107,712	-110,405	-113,165	-115,994
Other Income	-25,315.82	-11,760	-76,020	-62,215	-63,655	-65,132	-66,645
PSCA Recharge Income	-325,916.66	-32,000	-32,000	-32,000	-32,000	-32,000	-32,000
Consenting Income	-113,907.82	-64,000	-90,153	-92,407	-94,717	-97,086	-99,514
Disbursement Income	-89,421.45	-74,126	-78,116	0	0	0	0
Other Works Recharge Income	-7,529.19	-4,550	0	0	0	0	0
Engineers Work Invoiced out - Income	-163,493.74	-213,756	-216,749	-222,167	-227,722	-233,415	-239,250
Commuted Sums	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consortium Costs recharged	-585,433.74	-758,671	-744,335	-802,130	-852,532	-903,886	-968,624
Management fee Income	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustments for Costs incorporated into both Productive Costs & also Support Costs - to eliminate double counting:							
Engineering costs absorbed into Projects	-516,356.31	-475,633	-651,159	-588,304	-542,918	-497,000	-425,975
DLO costs absorbed into Productive Expenditure	-424,733.98	-436,673	-422,889	-486,314	-480,021	-486,078	-449,332
Plant costs absorbed into Productive Expenditure	-683,940.96	-496,120	-489,049	-553,673	-547,612	-545,815	-522,048
Total Income	-3,000,243.44	-2,696,063	-2,905,554	-2,946,922	-2,951,582	-2,973,577	-2,919,382
To be funded by Rates & Levy	3,945,541.23	5,019,513	5,506,061	5,479,885	5,535,463	5,629,186	5,739,157
Agricultural Rates Income	-1,036,210.34	-1,310,880	-1,317,996	-1,330,649	-1,340,533	-1,364,008	-1,388,100
Special Levy Income	-3,158,296.00	-4,104,093	-4,210,879	-4,165,983	-4,196,928	-4,270,422	-4,345,851
	-4,194,506.34	-5,414,973	-5,528,875	-5,496,632	-5,537,461	-5,634,430	-5,733,951
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	248,965.11	395,460	22,814	16,747	1,998	5,244	-5,206
Agricultural Annual Values	6,189,244	6,177,571	6,164,620	6,177,571	6,177,571	6,177,571	6,177,571
Special Levy Annual Values	18,991,554	19,340,681	19,695,410	19,340,681	19,340,681	19,340,681	19,340,681
Rateable Annual Values	25,180,798	25,518,252	25,860,030	25,518,252	25,518,252	25,518,252	25,518,252
Rate p/£	16.63	21.22	21.38	21.54	21.70	22.08	22.47
Rate % Increase	3.00%	27.60%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	1.75%	1.75%
Loan debt							
Loan debt - existing loans	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan debt - potential new loans	0.00	1,043,652	2,333,300	2,837,153	3,078,720	3,354,851	3,234,343
Total Loan debt	0.00	1,043,652	2,333,300	2,837,153	3,078,720	3,354,851	3,234,343
Loan debt as a % of Rateable Income		19.27%	42.20%	51.62%	55.60%	59.54%	56.41%
Cash Reserves							
Cash Balances at 31/3/ after adjustments	995,529.05	1,420,367	1,864,215	2,030,962	2,032,960	2,038,204	2,032,998
Current Year outturn variance		271,034					
Plant Reserve (rated for) - to be deducted from cash balance reserves	398,890.16	23,120	173,120	323,120	323,120	323,120	323,120
Plant Reserve (rated for) - amended by Board	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Capital receipts - to be deducted from cash balance reserves	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus Operating Cash	596,638.89	1,397,247	1,691,095	1,707,842	1,709,840	1,715,084	1,709,878
Non-specific scheme values							
Net Operating costs plus contribution to schemes	3,945,541.23	4,614,365	5,506,061	5,479,885	5,535,463	5,629,186	5,739,157
Total Cash as % of Operating costs	25.23%	30.78%	33.86%	37.06%	36.73%	36.21%	35.42%
Surplus Operating Cash as % of Operating costs	15.12%	30.28%	30.71%	31.17%	30.89%	30.47%	29.79%
Emergency Surplus Operating Cash using Non-specific scheme funds as % of Operating costs							
	15.12%						
NB LMBDB Have a reserve Policy to cover unexpected costs of a minimum of 30%							
Local Authority	Payable Levy	Payable Levy	Payable Levy	Payable Levy	Payable Levy	Payable Levy	Payable Levy
East Lindsey District Council	£3,148,331	4,091,378	4,198,068	£4,229,485	£4,260,902	£4,335,516	£4,412,095
North East Lincolnshire Council	£9,965	12,715	12,811	£12,907	£13,002	£13,230	£13,464
	£3,158,296	4,104,093	£4,210,879	£4,242,392	£4,273,904	£4,348,746	£4,425,559
Increase in Levy Payable		Overall Increase	Overall Increase	Overall Increase	Overall Increase	Overall Increase	Overall Increase
East Lindsey District Council		943,047	£106,690	£31,417	£31,417	£74,614	£76,579
North East Lincolnshire Council		2,750	£96	£96	£95	£228	£234
		945,797	£106,786	£31,513	£31,512	£74,842	£76,813