

WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the ninety first meeting of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 29th September 2015 at Minting Village Hall, Lincolnshire, LN9 5RX.

Present:

Mr. P. R. Hoyes **(Chairman).**
Mr. M. I. Thomas **(Vice Chairman).**
Mr. R. Armstrong.
Cllr. R. M. Avison.
Cllr. S. M. Avison.
Mr. J .Boyall.
Cllr. A. Bridgwood.
Mr. I. M. Clark.
Mr. W.S. Crane.
Cllr. I. G. Fleetwood.
Mr J. R. Garner.
Cllr. Mrs. S Gorst.
Cllr. W. H. Gray.
Mrs.J. Holland.
Mr. I .Parker.
Mr. J. C. Smithson.
Mr. D.J. Straw.
Cllr. P. Vaughan.

In attendance:

Mrs. Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive.
Mr. Martin Shilling	Director of Operations.
Mr. Steve Larter	Finance Manager.
Mrs. Anna Wilson	Finance and Rating Officer.

2378 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. B Charlesworth, Cllr. W Grover, Mr. R. Hairsine, Cllr. G. Hewson, Cllr. D .C. Hoyes MBE, Cllr. D. Jackson, Cllr. Mrs. F. M. Martin MBE, Mr. C. Mason, Cllr. M. J. W. Parish, Mr. P. A. Spilman, and Mr. R. J. Weightman.

2379 Declarations of Interest.

Declarations of interest were received from members nominated by City of Lincoln, East Lindsey District and West Lindsey District Councils in matters relating to their respective Councils.

2380 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman welcomed members and officers to the meeting, particularly welcoming both Cllr. Alexander Bridgwood and Cllr. Mrs Susanna Gorst to their first meeting. He summarised recent changes to membership, as follows:

- City of Lincoln Council.

The Council had nominated 4 returning members in Cllr. Gary Hewson, Cllr. David Jackson, Cllr. Pat Vaughan and Mr. Jeff Boyall. Cllr. Brent Charlesworth had joined the Board in June as a new member.

- West Lindsey District Council.

Two existing members had been nominated, in Mr. Clive Mason and Cllr. Ian Fleetwood. New members were Cllr. Alexander Bridgwood and Cllr. Malcolm Parish.

- East Lindsey District Council.

The Council had nominated 4 returning members in Cllr. Richard Avison, Cllr. Stan Avison, Cllr. William Gray and Cllr. Mrs. Fiona Martin. New members were Cllr. Will Grover and Cllr. Mrs. Susanna Gorst.

- Directly Elected Members.

Last Friday, 25th September had been the closing date for receipt of completed nomination papers, for those members directly elected to membership of the Board. The Chairman advised that all existing 14 directly elected members had stood for re-election. In addition, the vacant seat representing City of Lincoln and Greetwell had now been filled, from 01.11.15, by Mr. Henry Ward.

Members noted the changes to membership of the Board.

2381 Minutes of the Board meeting on 16.06.2015.

Mr. Ian Clark proposed, Cllr. Pat Vaughan seconded and the Board APPROVED the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16th June 2015 as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

2381.1 Highland Water Claim (minute 2353.2 refers).

It was confirmed that the Highland Water claim was due for payment by the Environment Agency by 30.09.15. This was the balance on the actual claim for 2014/15 of a further (£44,758) due to the Board, for the costs of receiving water from upland areas, and 80% (£132,000) of the estimated claim total (£165,000) for 2015/16. This was received in late October last year and, given the payment has been chased this week, it seems unlikely now to be received by 30.09.15.

2381.2 Plant Programme 2015/16 (minute 2353.4 refers).

It was confirmed that the Board's new Atlas 150W wheeled excavator, with 3 part extending dipper, had been delivered by TDL to the depot yesterday (28.09.15) at a cost of £133,145 (excluding VAT).

2381.3 Internal Audit.

Following completion of the Internal Auditor's work on 2014/15 and his presentation to the Board on 16.06.15, it was confirmed that he is returning on 18th & 19th November to start work on 2015/16.

2381.4 IDB Annual Return 2014/15 and IDB1 Report to Defra (minutes 2361 and 2362 refers).

It was confirmed that the Annual Return and IDB1 Report to Defra for 2014/15 had been submitted to Grant Thornton (External Auditors) and Defra respectively by the due dates, following the Board's approval on 16.06.15.

2381.5 Summer Inspections (minute 2368 refers).

It was confirmed that members had participated in two Inspections this year, a joint one between the group of 3 IDBs on 15th July and then a visit to North East Lindsey IDB's drainage district (including the Port of Immingham) on 22nd September.

2381.6 Flood Alleviation Scheme at Stamp End in Lincoln (minute 2374 refers).

Members were advised that Upper Witham IDB's Engineer would have his 12 months secondment to LCC/Mouchel extended to oversee completion of this scheme. It was due to start on site in December/January, with a completion date of late March 2016. It was therefore anticipated that the pumping station asset would be transferred to the Board from April 2016.

2382 Minutes of the Standing Committee, 15.09.15.

The minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 15th September 2015 were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record and the recommendations to the Board were noted.

2382.1 Pay Award 2015/16 (minute 6.3 refers).

Members' attention was drawn to discussion about the lack of an agreed joint pay uplift recommendation for 2015/16 from ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay Committee. The money was in the 2015/16 budget for a 1% pay award and a further 1% pay contingency.

2382.2 Bennett's Mill, Woodhall Spa (minute 11 refers).

The Committee had discussed the housing development by Manor Crest Ltd. at Bennett's Mill in Woodhall Spa, the Board having agreed on 22.10.13 to adopt the watercourse at the development on completion. It was noted that, after discussion, the Standing Committee was content to support a recommendation that a further stretch of riparian watercourse downstream of it should also be adopted (as covered later on the Board's agenda).

2382.3 Replacement AWC at Greetwell Pumping Station.

Members noted the discussion at Standing Committee about the state of the Automated Weedscreen Cleaner at Greetwell Pumping Station and that, outwith the 2015/16 budget, a specification for a replacement would be done and the Board would proceed to invite tenders.

The Board endorsed this action.

2383 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee on 27.07.15.

The minutes of the inaugural meeting of the 3 Boards' Joint Services Committee held on Monday, 27th July were noted.

Attention was drawn to the Terms of Reference and the role of the Committee, to encompass the work of the previous Joint Administration Committee but also to include a wider range of functions (including Engineering, Operations, GIS, Consents & Enforcements) and specific issues as follows:

- Audit and Governance.
- Environmental issues.
- Health and Safety.
- Terms and Remuneration.

Although there was no scheme of delegation to the Committee, each Board retaining full executive powers, it would provide an efficient forum for joint working on issues in common and reduce duplication.

The position in respect of the implementation of the revised Motor Vehicles Allowances Policy was drawn to members' attention, the commercial lease vehicles due to be delivered in late October/early November.

The next meeting of the Committee was noted as 07.12.15.

2384 Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's Report had been circulated with the agenda. The following issues were highlighted:

- Notice of Closure for the IDB Annual Return 2014/15.

Grant Thornton, External Auditors, had completed the audit of the Annual Return 2014/15 and the Notice of Closure was received by the Board on 10.09.15. Pleasingly, there were no qualifications and no comments affecting the audit opinion. There was one 'other matter' which the auditors had asked to be brought to the Board's attention, as follows:

"Witham (III) District Internal Drainage Board.

Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of Witham (III) District Internal Drainage Board for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Financial Regulations.

The Financial Regulations do not include checks to ensure that all expenditure is within the powers of the Internal Drainage Board or checks to ensure that all PAYE/NI and VAT regulations are met".

There had been communication with Grant Thornton about revised Financial Regulations approved by each of the 3 Boards in November 2014 and whether the revisions covered this point. However, the 'other matters' comment was received and NOTED and a further revision will be accordingly made to the Financial Regulations, to come to the November meeting of the Board for approval.

- Insurance Renewals 2015.

It was noted that the Board's Insurance Policies had been renewed from 30.06.15 at a cost of £23,200.16, a slight reduction from £25,309.74 in 2014. However, the Board had a modest plant programme during the year and this did not include the insurance cost of the new Atlas 150W wheeled excavator, delivered yesterday.

- Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Chairman and Chief Executive had attended the launch event on 11.08.15 for the Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS). This had been well attended.

Subsequently, on 10.09.15 there had been a site visit to the scheme, hosted by VBA (the Contractor) and the EA, prior to the Project Board meeting. This had been very positive and a subsequent site visit had been held on Thursday, 24.09.15.

There had been some 4-6 weeks delay as during the archaeological investigations some finds of interest were discovered in the 38 trenches. These may be some form of Iron Age 'river training' (still to be confirmed by further investigation, analysis and carbon dating) and further site investigations were continuing on site. However, the County Archaeologist had reported at the site visit how positive the working arrangements were on site.

Mr. Ian Clark raised his concerns that negotiations with affected landowners were lamentably not yet resolved by the EA. The Chief Executive acknowledged this concern, which had been raised at the site visit by one of the landowners, but felt that whilst this was regrettable for those concerned and had been raised with the EA, in terms of scheme progress on site there was good news.

- Eel Regulations (England & Wales) 2009.

Compliance with the Eel regulations is subject to a joint study across IDBs. In Witham Third, to date 3 pumping stations had been assessed and the cost of compliance is estimated at £1,865,948. A further 15 are yet to be assessed (assuming Short Ferry and Fiskerton Diesel are treated as 2 distinct ones) and if the average cost of £585,452 per pumping station for compliance is applied, the potential cost is £8,781,780 for the 15. So, a total estimated cost for compliance is therefore £10,647,728.

Members expressed concern at the potential magnitude of costs in complying with these regulations and hoped that a pragmatic solution would be found.

- Consents and Enforcements Service for the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

The Boards in Lincolnshire had provided the consents and enforcements service in their extended rainfall catchment areas since April 2012 for Lincolnshire County Council (in the Council's capacity as the LLFA).

It was noted that the annual Memorandum of Understanding, under which this service is provided to the LLFA, had been reviewed and was now extended to 31.03.18.

The report was received and noted.

2385 Election 2015.

The Chief Executive advised that, following closure date of Friday, 25th September for the Election 2015 receipt of nomination papers, fifteen had been returned. As there were not more candidates than vacant seats, she had placed a 'Notice of No Poll' to appear in the Lincolnshire Echo on Thursday, 01st October. This would also be on the Board's website.

Accordingly, letters of appointment together with a copy of the 'No Poll' advertisement were distributed to directly elected members and will be posted to absent members plus the one new member.

It was noted that the new term of office runs for 3 years from 01st November 2015 to 31st October 2018. This concluded the election process for 2015.

2386 Financial Performance Report 2015/16, to 31.08.15.

The Finance Manager presented the Financial Performance Report for the first five months of 2015/16, as at 31st August.

The expected budget surplus as at 31.08.15 was (£1,207) whereas the actual budget surplus was (£45,139), a positive variance of (£43,932). This positive position was, however, viewed with caution given overtime costs for the weed cutting season had yet to be incurred, the pay award had not been settled, electricity costs would increase throughout autumn and winter etc.

On income, the actual was (£14k) better than profile. Special Levies had been received to the end of November from all 3 Councils, Drainage Rates collection was excellent at 96.8% as at 31.08.15 (including prior years' arrears), with a £4.5k balance outstanding to be collected. As far as outstanding drainage rates accounts were concerned, final reminders had been sent on 03.09.15 and a court date had been set for 25.11.15. Also on income, rechargeable works income was (£13k) ahead of profile, mainly relating to PSCA works undertaken for the EA (the costs of this shown as rechargeable works expenditure).

On expenditure, the depot was £11k over budget profile. In July welfare facilities had been improved and the yard had been tidied (unwanted items disposed of) and the depot line painting had been redone and bench worktops resurfaced. The buildings had been repainted and the yard relevelled. Expenditure on electricity was (£13k) lower than profile reflecting a dry summer, bank slip repairs were (£8k) lower, and repairs and maintenance was (£15k) lower. Fuel prices had reduced, with a (£7k) saving. Pump lifts were currently (£8k) less than budget.

The expenditure position was noted but it was reported that approximately £5k of further CCTV investigation and de-silting works on various culverts had been commissioned with ADC, Coningsby Pump breakdown and lift last week was (as discussed at Standing Committee on 15.09.15) being treated as an additional pump lift, further pump lifts had yet to be undertaken in Autumn and the Greetwell PS AWC replacement costs were not included in budget.

Bank balances and investments were given as follows, as at 31.08.15:

NatWest	£222,231.43
Nationwide Instant Access	£301,150.68
Nationwide 90 day Notice	<u>£502,013.70</u>
Total	<u>£1,025,395.81</u>

The financial report to 31st August 2015 was received and noted.

2387 Statement of Expenditure, 01.05.15 to 31.08.15.

The Statement of Expenditure for 4 months to 31st August had been circulated with the agenda. Gross expenditure was £435,539.65 which, net of £25,871.08 reclaimable VAT, was £409,668.57 net expenditure. Of this, £24,376.28 was rechargeable expenditure.

Some of the high value items were highlighted and discussed, including:

- item 26 - £4,200 for diesel parts storage container at the depot.
- item 63 - EA precept payment 1 (of 2) for £52,577.
- items 123 to 128 - spares for repairs to flails.
- item 129 - £5,780 for mowing basket.
- item 188 (rechargeable) - £3,151 for Hand Roding PSCA work by SM Allen & Sons.
- items 234 to 245 - Insurance renewals costs.

Mr. Ian Parker enquired whether, given item 267 (£352 net of VAT) for 4 new tyres for the Ford Ranger, the vehicle would be retained when the commercial lease vehicles arrive. It was confirmed that the Board was keeping the Ford Ranger.

Mr. David Straw commented on the apparent high cost of item 26, £4,200 for a diesel parts storage container. This was acknowledged and it was explained that the Board had benefitted from the de-commissioning of a diesel pumping station, receiving the diesel parts from it, and a diesel parts store had been established at the depot.

On item 268, it was clarified that the £8,533.99 paid to Witham First DIDB was an adjustment as Thames Valley Foods had paid the total drainage rates due to both Boards to Witham Third, this amount being due to Witham First DIDB.

On item 124, £7,573.32 to Mastenbroek Ltd., it was clarified that this was in respect of weed basket spares, not spares for flails as stated.

Members NOTED the expenditure incurred.

2388 Write off of Drainage Rates & costs.

The Finance and Ratings Officer presented a paper requesting the Board writes off £1,317.05 in drainage rates and £80.00 in costs, distributed across 5 accounts (nos. 967, 1055, 1424 and 1503).

The most significant of these is within the 1424 Holding Account where the request was for £1,076.04 to be written off relating to the period 01.04.15 to 31.03.16. A 'specialist value grading' had been applied to the drainage rates on a parcel of land which used to be a poultry farm. A site visit confirmed the change of use from poultry unit to children's 'petting farm attraction' and, as such, the Board is able to collect only basic rate drainage rates (on the land which cannot be transferred to Special Levy).

Members AGREED to the write off of £1,317.05 in drainage rates and £80.00 in costs.

2389 Director of Operations' Report.

The Director of Operations' Report to 15.09.15 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented, together with an update, as follows:

- **Planned Maintenance Programme.**

The planned programme of summer maintenance commenced during early July, after completion of improvements to the Board's depot. Work continues apace, despite the usual challenges of inclement weather, standing crops and drilled fields. It has included the use of Upper Witham IDB's midi-digger to access Scothern Beck and Crofts Drain where it was employed, reducing the risk of hitting overhead cables and traffic.

- **Plant.**

The new Atlas 150W wheeled excavator was delivered to the Board yesterday complete with a new Herder weed cutting basket which was purchased separately by the Board. The delay in its delivery has been caused by the fitting of the incorrect middle section to the machine hydraulic arm. Whilst this gave the machine greater reach, it was not what was specified by the Board and made the machine somewhat unstable in certain scenarios. The sliding dipper capability will increase machine flexibility and improve access to areas where there are overhanging trees and bushes or utility cables.

The JCB JS160 has suffered a breakdown which lost 2 days of work whilst the fault was established and rectified. A voltage reducer had failed which caused the fuel pump to be inoperable. This was replaced and no further problems have been reported.

- **Pumping Stations.**

A fault with a motor was reported at Coningsby Pumping Station on Saturday 13.09.15. Shoebridge Engineering are investigating to establish the cause of the problem and what remedial work is required. This may include the removal from site of the motor. If so, the opportunity will be taken to overhaul the pump at the same time (on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, this will be an additional pump lift this year).

- **Public Sector Cooperation Agreement.**

The Board continued to undertake work commissioned under the PSCA with the Environment Agency. It includes the clearing of obstructions and vegetation from Welton Beck and Thunker Drain in Horncastle and the cutting of flood defence embankments on the Duckpool Catchwater Drain. This work will continue throughout this financial year and will also include Tilehouse Drain and Snakeholme Beck.

- **Workforce.**

Barry Steels retired from the Board's workforce on 30th August 2015, after a prolonged period of ill health. Barry was a valued member of the workforce. Whilst he was usually found on the flail during the summer months, Barry's enthusiasm and commitment was evident in whatever task he was asked to undertake throughout the year (the Board had recruited a successor, who started in May).

- **Lincolnshire Show (24th & 25th June).**

The Board was represented at the show as part of a stand and display demonstrating the work of all the Boards in Lincolnshire, organised by the Show Committee of ADA's Lincolnshire Branch. The display included a variety of equipment from the County's Boards and received a steady flow of visitors throughout both days.

- **Winter Programme 2015/16.**

Members were presented with the proposed winter works programme of de-silting and bushing works, totalling 7.7 miles. This was detailed as follows, it being advised that Notices of Entry to those affected had been posted:

<u>Watercourse</u>	<u>Length m</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Abbey Fen Drain	2235m	1.4 miles
Eastfield Drain	4015m	2.5 miles
Linwood Drain	1355m	0.8 miles
Scothern North Drain	900m	0.6 miles
Borrow Pits	645m	0.4 miles
Barlings River	860m	0.5 miles
Lissington & Legsby Beck	2425m	1.5 miles
Totals	12435m	7.7 miles

- **EA potential de-maining of watercourses.**

A discussion followed on the informal approaches made to a number of IDBs (by the EA) about the potential for the EA to de-main stretches of main river and to ascertain whether the Boards (or riparian land occupiers) would be interested in adopting these watercourses.

It was not known whether there were any proposals to improve the condition of these watercourses and it was unlikely that any commuted sum would come with them for future maintenance. There was no consistent logic as to which watercourses had been included, e.g. not all had a hydraulic link/benefit to the Board's existing system or were in close geographical proximity. In relation to Witham Third, the proposed list was as follows (those marked * having some hydraulic benefit to the Board's existing system):

- Barlings Eau (part) *
- Duckpool Catchwater Drain (part) *
- Haltham Beck
- River Bain – Thimbleby Loop
- River Bain – Ranby Loop
- River Waring (part)
- Scrivelsby Beck
- Tilehouse Beck*
- Snakeholme Drain*
- Stainfield Beck
- Welton Beck
- Thunker Drain, Horncastle.

ADA's Lincolnshire Branch Secretary had written to the EA's Area Manager on behalf of all Lincolnshire Boards, highlighting the inconsistency of approach and communication and requesting this be addressed. The Boards had co-ordinated the mapping of all stretches of watercourses about which they had individually been approached. Members would be kept informed of discussion.

Members received and NOTED the report and update.

2390 Consents & Enforcements Report.

The Engineer's Report on Consents and Enforcement cases within the Board's drainage district and also in the extended rainfall catchment, where the Board acts for and on behalf of LCC, had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Stan Avison commented on an enforcement case (TE-918-2014-ENF) in Tattershall Thorpe, pointing out that the flood issue was at Chapel Lane (not Church Lane).

Members received and NOTED the position.

2391 Planning Applications Report.

The Engineer's Report on planning applications considered between 08.06.15 and 16.09.15 (including East Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council, City of Lincoln Council and Lincolnshire County Council had been circulated with the agenda). This summarised comments/objections submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA).

In relation to comments submitted to ELDC, these on 2 applications were highlighted:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Details</u>
Land South of Banovallum Gardens, Horncastle	Lindum Homes	Outline for 90 dwellings
<i>It is noted the storm water run-off is to be attenuated to the Qbar rate at 16l.sec-1.and an access strip is to allow the unfettered maintenance of Thunker Drain to continue. Confirmation should be obtained that the local farmer will continue to maintain Thunker Drain after this development (as planning has not been submitted for the most of the land on the south bank). If this is not forthcoming, then another sustainable arrangement must be put in place.</i>		
Elmhirst Road, Horncastle	Nelson Butler & Son	Outline for 21no. dwellings
<i>The drainage ditches along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site are part of the Horncastle lngs system maintained by the Board, albeit from the opposite bank to the proposed development. Consent will be required for the works within the 9m byelaw distance, including the storm water outfall at an agreed rate of discharge.</i>		

In relation to comments submitted to WLDC, those on 2 applications were highlighted:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Details</u>
Land at Nettleham Road, Scothern	Allison Homes Ltd	38no. dwellings
<i>It is proposed to drain into the storm water sewer system which is the last option in the hierarchy. There is a Board maintained watercourse just 130m away by the shortest route, although this would be through several land parcels. It is just over 150m by road. Such a connection was made in another application in the village, Heath Road, Scothern - when the distance to a watercourse was about 650m.It is noted from section 4.3 of the Flood Risk Assessment the Qbar calculation is 0.9l,sec-1 yet the discharge to the sewer, section 4.17 of the FRA is to be 10l.sec-1.</i>		
Lincoln Road, Dunholme	Damac Estates Ltd	Demolition of Spar shop and erection of 5no. Dwellings

Section 12 of the application form shows a sustainable drainage system is proposed, yet in sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the Flood Risk Assessment it is stated to be by means of soakaways with favourable ground conditions, or storm water sewer if not.

Members received and NOTED the planning applications received and the comments submitted.

2392 Environmental Report.

The GIS and Environment Officer's report had been circulated with the agenda. This included detail on:

- Environmental Training, 22.07.15.

A joint training session had been held for Operational staff in all 3 Boards, which ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Environment Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman also attended. This included the identification of Invasive Non-Native species (INNS), using the GLNP INNS identification guides. The session also covered a review of 2014/15 issues and the 2015/16 Environmental Action Plan. Locations for the 2015/16 works were presented and discussed. On a number of wider drains across the 3 Boards, a marginal fringe of vegetation will be left uncut for environmental benefits. The possibility of trailing a static water level on a drain in Witham First DIB was discussed.

- Diversity of Invertebrates.

Discussion is underway with Paul Wood of Loughborough University, regarding a study to assess the diversity and abundance of invertebrates on the 3 Boards' drains. His work elsewhere suggests regular maintenance work on IDB drains creates valuable habitats.

- Community Engagement.

The Boards hosted a visit from South Hykeham Community Primary School at land opposite Upper Witham IDB's Meadow Lane Depot. The aim was to explain the work that IDBs do and activities included:

- wildflower meadow planting, as part of the national 'Growing Wild' project.
 - identifying invertebrates in water samples from Hykeham Pump Drain North.
 - identifying where species live, in and around a watercourse.
 - making a model Archimedean Screw Pump.
 - tour of Hykeham Pumping Station.
- Eel Regulations (England & Wales) 2009.

The EA's holding position on compliance with Eel regulations remains:

"The Environment Agency is still considering the challenges presented by the need to implement measures to protect eels at pumping stations across the country. We will provide an update as soon as we are able to.

The Environment Agency is required by law to take action to halt and reverse the decline in the European eel stock. We are working with Internal Drainage Boards to assess what is required at priority sites in order to take the most cost-effective action to protect this endangered species. While the costs of the work will vary from place to place, many of the measures that site owners can make are simple to implement and are relatively low cost. Where the agreed projects will involve higher costs, sites will be given a longer period to complete the work".

A liaison group has been set up between the Environment Agency and IDBs to discuss the implementation of eel regulations. Following the last meeting on 13th July, ADA has sent a questionnaire to IDBs to provide an accurate picture of the national cost and timescale for implementing eel regulations. It will also capture local progress and concerns.

- Upper Witham IDB's estimated cost of eel compliance is £9.4 million.
- Witham First DIDB's estimated cost of eel compliance is £6.9 million.
- Witham Third DIDB's estimated cost of eel compliance is £10.6 million.

Members received and NOTED the report on Environmental initiatives.

2393 Bennett's Mill Drain, Woodhall Spa.

A paper had been circulated which reminded Members that on 22.10.13 the Board had agreed to adopt and maintain a stretch of watercourse at Bennett's Mill in Woodhall Spa (off the St. Peter's Drive/Albany Road area), adjacent to where Manor Crest Ltd are now nearing completion of the housing development.

The Board did not at that time adopt the downstream stretch of watercourse (A to B) adjacent to the dismantled railway, which carries water from the Albany Road area towards the Board maintained Abbey Lane Drain. This is the responsibility of a riparian landowner. At point B water usually continues south-westwards toward C, the Borrow Pits Drain, or at times when water levels are higher it diverts south-eastwards into the Board maintained Abbey Lane Drain.

As and when water diverts into Abbey Lane Drain, it outfalls into the Board's Woodhall Sewer which has a gravity outfall directly into the River Witham.

The Chief Executive and Director of Operations outlined that it may not be popular for the Board to adopt the watercourse from A to B, because of the development hope value in this location.

Members were conscious that there was a history of flood events in the Albany Road area, and that the Board had agreed to adopt the stretch of watercourse adjacent to Bennett's Mill where machine access was best preserved by use of the Board's byelaws. They also were aware that future housing growth in the area concerned would put drainage pressures on the system. This had to be balanced against not being unreasonable towards a riparian owner who may not wish the Board to adopt a stretch of watercourse. After discussion, it was AGREED the Board would adopt the stretch of watercourse (downstream of Bennett's Mill) from A to B (alongside the dismantled railway), for the following reasons:

- to provide greater reassurance to local residents that the Board will control, as far as is reasonably practicable, appropriate standards of surface water drainage to the residential properties of the Albany Road/St. Peter's Drive/ Bennett's Mill close area.
- the Board had approved an 'Adoption of Watercourses Policy' in January 2014 and adoption of the drain from points A to B would be consistent with that policy. In addition, having adopted the watercourse at Bennett's Mill, the Board would have not adopted an isolated stretch of watercourse and could demonstrate continuity of a Board maintained watercourse from that point to outfall (via Abbey Lane Drain, then Woodhall Sewer) by the adoption of this additional stretch of watercourse.

2394 Any Other Business

2394.1 Barlings Eau.

Both Cllr. Ian Fleetwood and Mr. David Straw raised concerns about the state of the Barlings Eau, specifically the lack of EA maintenance on the system. Housing growth in the area was planned and they each raised concerns about the impact of this additional housing on the system.

Cllr. Ian Fleetwood advised that he had been trying to convene a meeting with EA staff to discuss options. He now had a meeting arranged for Friday, 23.10.15 at 9.30am in Langworth (at The George).

2395 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting

The Board's next meeting and AGM were confirmed for **Tuesday, 10th November 2015** at **10.30am** in **Minting Village Hall**.

.....Chairman.....Date
W3rd BM 29.09.15