

## NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD

### Minutes of a meeting of North East Lindsey Drainage Board, held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at The Amethyst Hotel, East Halton, North Lincolnshire, DN40 3NS at 2pm.

Present: Mr. M. Archer  
Cllr. P. Clark  
Alderman I. Colquhoun  
Cllr. Mrs. M. Cracknell  
Mr. J. Finch  
Mr. J. Fussey.  
Mr. L. Grooby  
Mr. J. F. D. Hargreaves  
Mr. P. J. Hoyes  
Mr. R. Kirk.  
Alderman P. Mills  
Cllr. B. Parkinson  
Cllr. D. Wells.

**Vice Chairman**  
**Chairman**

In Attendance: Miss J. Flower, Executive Assistant  
Mrs. J. Froggatt, Chief Executive  
Mr. G. Hird, Engineering Services Officer  
Mr. C. Harris, TIAA, Internal Auditor  
Mr. S. Larter Finance Consultant  
Mr. M. Shilling, Director of Operations & Engineering

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. S. Bedford, Cllr. Mrs. J Goodwin, Cllr. R. Hannigan, Mr S. Shepherd and Mr. P. Wilkins.

#### **2. Declaration of Members' interests.**

Members nominated by North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils declared interests relating to their respective Councils.

#### **3. Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, with a particular welcome to Mr. Chris Harris of TIAA the Internal Auditors. Chris would present his independent report on the last financial year 2018/19 and also the audit certificate as part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

With regard to membership, the Chairman advised that Cllr David Bolton, a member of the Board nominated by North East Lincolnshire Council was unsuccessful in the 02<sup>nd</sup> May local elections. He had advised the Board that he was therefore no longer a member. Information from both Councils, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, was expected shortly following the start of the new civic year, elections and Council AGMs.

**4. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 22.01.19.**

The minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 were proposed by Alderman Peter Mills, seconded by Alderman Iain Colquhoun and were APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

*MATTERS ARISING:*

There were no matters arising, all items being covered by the agenda.

**5. Minutes of the Joint Services Committee meeting held on 13.05.19.**

The minutes of Joint Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 had been circulated with the agenda for information.

*MATTERS ARISING:*

**5.1 External Consultancy Costs (minute 6.4 refers).**

At Witham Third District IDB's January Board meeting, information was requested on the cost of external consultancy support during the year 2018/19.

The cost of financial consultancy support to the four Boards was £83,846.78 for the year from 01.04.18 to 31.03.19.

The cost of HR consultancy support to the four Boards for the year from 01.04.18 to 31.03.19 was £53,794.62.

This totals therefore £137,641.40 for both Finance and HR support.

This support was charged to the budget for the vacant Senior Finance and Ratings Officer post at £68,900 and the external support budget of £21,500, which therefore covers £90,400 of the total cost (a variance of £47,241.40).

The costs had been contained within each Board's revenue positions for 2018/19, as part of the joint services recharges.

**5.2 ADA response to the EFRA Committee's Inquiry into Coastal Flooding & Erosion and Climate Adaption (minute 12.2 refers).**

On behalf of the Board, a response to the call for evidence for this EFRA inquiry was submitted on 25.04.19. Copies are available for those members who wish to see this. NELDB's response was also submitted to ADA and on 30.04.19 ADA submitted a composite response to EFRA on behalf of the industry. Copies of this are available and are also on the ADA website.

Mr Julian Hargreaves stated that he was disappointed in the ADA submission of 30.04.19 to the EFRA Inquiry's call for evidence on the subject of coastal flooding, erosion and climate change. There was much discussion and this view was supported.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive should raise the issue with ADA officers.

Members noted the minutes of the Joint Services Committee.

## 6. Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda and issues highlighted included:

### 6.1 Summary 2018/19 IDB end of year position as at 31.03.19

All four IDBs within the Witham and Humber Group had healthy 2018/19 year end positions as at 31.03.19:

- NELDB (£7,197) surplus
- Upper Witham £30,856 deficit\* (\*includes £31k enabling works & £7k professional fees on the North Hykeham Depot Scheme).
- Witham First (£38,032) surplus
- Witham Third (£61,233) surplus

### 6.2 IDB Governance ADA Training Events: Doncaster 20.03.19 & Peterborough 28.03.19.

On 14.11.18 ADA launched the "Good Governance Guide" for IDB members. This publication is available online on the ADA website at the following link: <https://www.ada.org.uk/2018/11/ada-publishes-guide-to-good-governance-for-internal-drainage-board-members/>

A series of five training events were organised around the country, the nearest two for the four Boards were in Peterborough on 28.03.19 and Doncaster on 20.03.19.

In summary, topics covered included the role of IDB members and IDB Chairmen, meetings procedures and attendance requirements, elected members and members appointed by Special Levy paying Councils, Notices of Entry / permissive powers for works, consents, byelaws, planning and development control, environmental duties, partnership working, PSCAs, managing risks and hazards, information governance, funding of IDBs and financial management.

At this year's training event for members a summary presentation, to be issued by ADA, will be incorporated. This is likely to be in mid/late November.

At the Lincolnshire Clerks' meeting the Chief Executive was asked if the four Boards would host the training event this year for all Lincolnshire IDBs, with financial support from the ADA Lincolnshire Branch.

### 6.3 Annual Inspection Thursday, 19.09.19.

It was agreed last year to move the annual inspection to the end of the summer season, to hopefully make it easier for members to attend.

This year the event would again be a half day tour, commencing in the morning. Details would be confirmed but it was intended to start from Witham Third District IDB's Depot in Woodhall Spa, visit the EA's Horncastle FAS reservoir and Beeswax Dyson Farms with a visit to their anaerobic digester at Nocton Fen. The event would close with lunch at either a venue within Witham First District, (possibly Washingborough Hall Hotel), or on return to Woodhall Spa.

Members were requested to confirm whether they were / were not able to attend the inspection, on (01522) 697123 or email [jayne.flower@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.flower@witham3idb.gov.uk) This would help to confirm numbers and make event planning for coach and lunch numbers easier.

#### 6.4 Past Floods Matter Research Project.

As previously reported at the January Board meeting, Dr Jane Rowling, Postdoctoral Research Associate at Hull University, is leading a Lincolnshire case study on Past Floods Matter project to research the history of flood risk management and community flood resilience in England, 1750-2018.

The work has two primary aims:

- To examine models of community flood risk management in the past, principally but not exclusively in the form of IDBs, to assess the value of their learned historical experience and determine their viability as a basis for present and future planning policy; and
- To develop a methodological approach that places people and environment at the centre of a more historically-oriented understanding of the nature of present day flood risk.

An initial presentation by and discussion with Dr Jane Rowling took place on Wednesday, 13th February 2019 at Witham House and was attended by officers and Jeff Boyall (UW, W1st & W3rd member) and Lionel Grooby (Vice Chairman NELDB).

The session was a very useful exploration of how the role of IDBs, and indeed our predecessor organisations, has shaped the natural landscape, particularly in a county like Lincolnshire. The role of IDBs continues to develop from the original role as Land Drainage Authorities, to now being also water Level management organisations and Flood Protection Authorities. Some of the local projects emerging, like the Beeswax farming one, were mentioned regarding water quantity and quality with Witham First DIDB at Nocton Fen, illustrating how the role of IDBs continues to grow and develop to meet national imperatives and pressures [e.g. the work of Water Resources East and the future predictions about concerns to future public water supply volume and quality].

Dr. Rowling would be happy to have further discussion with any member who was unable to attend but would still like to participate.

To further assist the research, Dr Rowling will speak with some front-line Operatives who know well the local landscape and our IDBs' watercourse maintenance regimes. This will be combined with our pre- summer maintenance training day for Operatives organised for Thursday, 23.05.19.

If any members wish to know more about the project or to contribute, they were encouraged to contact Dr. Jane Rowling direct on [j.e.rowling@hull.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.rowling@hull.ac.uk)

6.5 Staff Training Day 23.05.19

The annual staff training day for all Operatives, Foremen and Works Supervisors will take place on 23rd May 2019 at Whisby Natural World centre. This event is organised by Fiona Scott, Environment and GIS Technician and will cover a variety of topics including eels regulation compliance, maintenance of watercourses, wildflower meadow planting, general health and safety good practice. It was stressed that training events like this one are open to NELDB's Contractor, Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd.

6.6 Applewhite vs Natural England Appeal.

The Chief Executive raised this issue to highlight the importance to members of being fully aware of all implications when entering into a Stewardship Scheme.

Witham First District IDB received notification from Defra on 13th March 2019 that Applewhite's had appealed a decision made by Natural England regarding the Applewhite's exiting an environmental scheme (a 10 year scheme which ended 31.10.17).

Natural England were investigating a potential breach of the EIA (Agriculture) Regulations in the Washingborough area. To assist with the investigation they had requested the Board confirm whether the IDB had any records/reports/survey data for or near to areas indicated on maps provided. They were looking for any information held by the IDB on water levels management that detailed water levels in this area over that period.

Applewhite had been requested to reinstate all water retaining structures that were reportedly removed in July 2018. This instruction was given by Natural England on 16th July 2018.

On 27th March 2019 on behalf of Witham First District IDB the Chief Executive registered an interest with Defra in the matter of the Applewhite Appeal hearing given that, representations being made to the Board, the Board as an interested party may wish to make representation in the Appeal hearing. It was seen as appropriate for the Board to disclose all relevant information held to Natural England in this process.

On Wednesday 03rd April the Chief Executive and Martin Shilling met with affected Witham First District IDB members.

6.7 Damage to rising sewer main near Pumping Station, Thornton Road, Goxhill, Barrow-upon-Humber, DN19 7HN (Incident 23.07.18).

The Board was informed by Anglian Water Services on 07.02.19 that the Board's contractor Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd damaged an Anglian Water Services asset in an incident on 23.07.18.

AWS was alerted (by Carnaby's) on 23.07.18 that the Operative had struck an unmarked 100 mm ductile iron rising sewer main at a location near AWS pumping station on Thornton Road.

Mr. Martin Archer asked who was responsible for marking the location of such assets. Martin Shilling advised that AWS were responsible, but the plans that were available were inaccurate due to their age.

The Board's Officers initially refuted the claim, as it was an unmarked structure, but after protracted correspondence AWS are still pursuing the claim, as follows:

sewer pipe repair - partner costs	£ 432.42
Tanker	£ 2,185.38
Sewer technician charges (out of hours)	£ 56.00
on-costs	£ 258.92
Total	<u>£ 2,932.72</u>

Accordingly, in keeping with the Board's contract with E. Carnaby & Son Ltd, the claim had been passed to them and is now with their insurers for negotiation of settlement with Anglian Water Services.

The Chief Executive's report was received and noted.

#### **7. Internal Audit Report and AGAR Audit Certificate for 2018/19.**

The Internal Auditor's report had been circulated with the agenda, together with the completed audit certificate for 2018/19.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Chris Harris, Audit Director with TIAA, who presented his independent report and audit certificate to the Board. He informed the meeting that the report was focused on governance and risk arrangements. He then took members through the Executive Summary, explaining the rationale and scope and the key recommendations. Pleasingly, the overall assurance assessment for the Board was once again, "Reasonable Assurance".

Members noted the Internal Auditor's independent report, accepted the 'reasonable assurance' rating and AGREED the report recommendations. Members further noted the completion of the AGAR return audit certificate ready for submission to the External Auditor. The Chairman thanked Chris Harris for a clear and constructive report.

#### **8. Schedule of Expenditure for the period 01.01.19 to 31.03.19.**

The schedule of expenditure for the three months ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented to the meeting by the Finance Consultant. The schedule is of invoices paid in the three months period.

Items highlighted to or by members included:

- Items 42 to 59: various amounts to Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd. These payments related to the full maintenance regime that had been undertaken this year, unlike in previous years where some watercourses were maintained at alternate years.
- Items 78 & 79: £500 and £2,475.00 (net) to Peter Brett & Associates LLP. These payments related to the catchment studies undertaken at Middle Drain.
- Item 81: £3,105.00 (net) to Scott Trailers Ltd. for the purchase of an Ifor Williams Trailer.

Members noted the schedule of expenditure incurred for the three months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## 9. 2018/19 Financial performance Report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

The 2018/19 Financial Performance Report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, had been circulated with the agenda and the Finance Consultant presented the summary position.

	<b>2018/19 Estimate</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Estimate 2019/20</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	(601,795)	(728,923)	(127,128)	(617,352)
Board & General Admin	37,100	34,469	(2,631)	36,100
One Off Schemes	0	21,879	21,879	185,000
Conservation	2,500	679	(1,821)	2,500
Depot	10,770	24,982	14,212	6,540
Drains	131,420	142,407	10,987	138,420
Pumping Stations	57,877	70,027	12,150	67,915
Joint Services	64,573	73,254	8,681	70,001
Consents & Enforcement	0	1,571	1,571	0
Engineers & Works Supervisor	134,925	133,512	(1,413)	133,246
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	0	0	0	(185,000)
PWLB			0	0
Rechargeable Works	0	57,928	57,928	0
EA Precept	162,630	161,019	(1,611)	162,630
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	0	0	0	0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	0	0	0
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(7,197)</b>	<b>(7,197)</b>	<b>-</b>

The Board had ended the financial year with a modest surplus of (£7,197) which it was proposed to allocate to the General Reserve.

The main variation was in respect of income which was (£127,128) ahead of profile. The bulk of this surplus, as previously reported at the January Board meeting, was attributed to PSCA works income for the EA. PSCA works have now been invoiced and fully paid by the Environment Agency totalling (£94k) for 2018/19.

Highland Water claims were submitted to the Environment Agency this month for the balance of (£29,339) due for 2018/19, this being a (£28k) positive variance. The estimated 2019/20 claim submitted was for (£77,000). 80% of the estimated claim for 2019/20 (£61,600) will be paid in September 2019 along with the balance for the 2018/19 actual (£29,339), i.e. total (£90,939). Members were reminded that this is a discretionary payment by the EA and, whilst there is no reason to think the (£90,939) would not be paid, the claim was higher than estimated. Some of the de-silting works undertaken at Middle Drain in winter 2018/19 did attract, for example, reimbursement from Highland Water payments.

The collection rate for Drainage Rates in 2018/19 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was 88.6% (84.9% at the same point in the previous year). The year end arrears balance of £3,136 was included in 2019/20 Drainage Rate demands, which were posted on 11th April 2019.

The bank balances as at 31st March 2019 were set out as follows:

**Barclays Bank plc**

Payments Account	£	4,530.66
Receipts Account	£	506.45
General Deposit Account	£	225,000.00
Developer Contributions Account	£	131,557.82
Nationwide Instant Access (Dev Cont's)	£	151,119.40
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£ 512,714.33</u></b>

Members were reminded that the Board has a General Reserve Policy of holding 10% to 15% of budgeted annual income/expenditure. This reserve currently had an allocation of £98,111. The surplus of (£7,197) which it is proposed be transferred to the General Reserve increases the balance to £105,308, which is 17.0% of 2019/20 estimated income and expenditure of £617,352. Whilst this is outside the upper limit of the policy, it was deemed prudent to retain this balance in the General Reserve.

The Finance Consultant advised members that an inter-fund transfer was recommended between the South Killingholme Development Contributions Reserve and the Pumping Stations Reserve in the sum of £20,596.51. This is the value of the desilting works undertaken on Middle Drain, which was deemed a reasonable use of Developer Contributions received in that area.

Members NOTED the financial performance for 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and APPROVED that the surplus of (£7,197) be transferred to the General Reserve, giving a closing balance of £105,308 (17.0%). Members further APPROVED the transfer of £20,596.51 from South Killingholme Development Contributions to the Pumping Stations Reserve.

Members were content to note the Outturn position had been used in the compilation of the Statement of Accounts, IDB Annual Return and IDB1 Report which were later on the agenda.

**9. Annual Governance Statement.**

A copy of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) had been circulated with the agenda. This document is incorporated into and forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability return (AGAR) for 2018/19. The Chairman went through with all members the eight statements therein and these were agreed.

Members completed the AGS 2018/19 and agreed it be included in the overall Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19.

**10. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2018/19.**

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2018/19 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Finance Consultant.

The Board does not have a statutory requirement to produce a full set of Statement of Accounts, but it is deemed good practice to do so.

Once approved, the document is loaded onto the Board's website to help meet its requirements under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. It should be noted this document is not subject to audit, as only the AGAR is subject to external audit. Therefore its status will remain as 'unaudited'.

Members were content to APPROVE the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2018/19.



## **11. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2018/19.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda in preparation for the statutory requirement of completion and approval of the AGAR 2018/19.

The AGAR comprises four separate sections to be approved at a full Board meeting before 1st July 2019. The report must be submitted, along with additional requested information, to the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn, by Monday, 01st July 2019 for review. Alongside this, the rights of public inspection also commence on Monday, 10th June 2019 until Friday, 19th July 2019, incorporating the first 10 working days of July as required by statute.

The AGAR comprises the following key sections:

- Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/19 (& Audit Certificate, received earlier).
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 (as approved at minute 9).
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19 (this report).
- Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19 (to be issued by PKF Littlejohn LLP by 30.09.19).

The Accounting Statements utilised the information used in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts and were detailed with this report, comparing the 31.03.19 position with that on 31.03.18.

Once approved, the document would be published on the website, meeting requirements under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The statutory deadline by which the AGAR and signed external auditor report and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit must be published is Sunday, 30th September 2019.

The Board APPROVED the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2018/19 and approved the publishing of the AGAR on the Board's website, along with the notice to commence the period of public rights of inspection from 10th June 2019 until 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## **12. DEFRA Annual Report (IDB1) to 31.03.19**

The IDB1 Report (draft) had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Finance Consultant.

The Report must be completed, approved and submitted by 31st August each year to:

- Defra.
- Environment Agency.
- The Chief Executives of:
  - o All local authorities that pay special levies to the Board (NELC, NLC and WLDC).
  - o All County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated (LCC for WLDC element).

The form is in 3 sections covering:

- Financial information
  - o Special Levies issued for 2019/20.
  - o Income & Expenditure Account for year ending 31 March 2019.
- IDB Reporting
  - o Policy Delivery Statement.

- o Information on the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database.
- o Biodiversity.
- o Access to environmental expertise.
- o Asset Management.
- o Guidance and Best Practice
- o Board Membership and Attendance.
- o Complaints Procedure
- Declaration – to be signed by the Chief Executive.

Following discussion, the Board APPROVED the draft Defra Annual Report (IDB1) for the year ended 31 March 2019, noting that this was a draft as the actual form had not yet been received from Defra and, when received, there may be some minor variation in the information requested. A copy of the actual submission will be uploaded to the Board's website.

### **13. Health and Safety Update.**

An update on Health and Safety, prepared by the Operations Manager, across the group of four IDBs had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering.

There was one "Near Miss" reported since the last Health & Safety Report to the Boards, which occurred on Witham Third DIDB. An employee was standing at the side of the Low Loader whilst it was being lowered to the ground and trapped his foot under the deck. He alerted the driver who lifted the trailer back up. Fortunately, no injury occurred. All employees had since been spoken to regarding this incident and instructed to stand clear of any moving machinery. It was confirmed that the Operative was wearing safety boots at the time, as part of the full PPE provision.

Training continued with employees from all four Boards and including Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd's staff, including 'Overhead Cable Avoidance' for new and current Operatives. Operatives and some office staff had also completed 'Emergency First Aid at Work', incorporating Defibrillator training and 'Chainsaw Injuries Training'. A 'Brushcutter' course was undertaken on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 'Telehandler' course took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Defibrillators had been purchased for all Boards and the Office (10 in total). One is located at each of three depots (Witham Third DIDB at Woodhall Spa, Witham First DIDB at Timberland and Upper Witham IDB at North Hykeham). One is carried by NELDB's Works Supervisor and one by each of the Foremen (for W1st, W3rd and UW). One is located at the main office at Witham House, one is carried as a mobile with the Operations Manager (Ian Coupland) and one by the Director of Operations and Engineering (Martin Shilling).

The Boards have invested £10,500 (including VAT) in the purchase of the 10 defibrillators (the unit cost per defibrillator reduced at more than nine). They are for use solely by the Boards and are not publicly available, which would require them to be available and positioned at an accessible point at all times. This does not mean that should the need arise they would not be used on a member of the public.

Legislation has changed regarding welding, requiring the Operatives to have either suction ventilation or air fed welding helmets. Air fed helmets have been purchased to meet this new legislation for Witham First, Third and Upper Witham. It was noted that North East Lindsey Drainage Board does not currently have a welder, so there is no requirement at present.

Members received and noted the update on Health and Safety issues.

#### **14. Environment Report 2018/19 and plans for 2019/20.**

A report prepared by Fiona Scott, GIS and Environment Technician, had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering Services.

The four IDBs had continued to achieve their duty to 'conserve and enhance the environment' in line with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC).

On 29th November 2018, an environmental training presentation was given by Fiona Scott to all Operations staff. The presentation focused on working around badgers and badger setts, and the correct protocols to follow when doing so.

Another environmental training morning was planned for 23rd May 2019 which would provide a general overview and update of the Board's environmental practices.

Each Board's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) states that certain species should be recorded. These species have been identified as having significance within Lincolnshire and are species which would benefit from specific management or actions by IDBs. The overall aim of monitoring these species is to ensure that habitat and species targets are translated into effective action within Board districts. The species recorded over 2018/19 by Witham First District, Witham Third District, Upper Witham and North East Lindsey IDBs included barn owls, eels, grass snakes, kingfishers, otters, reed buntings, toads and water voles.

ADA's Technical and Environment Committee is still awaiting guidance from DEFRA on the rewriting of IDB BAPs, in accordance with Biodiversity 2020. This is due to be introduced in November 2019.

Lionel Grooby informed members that Spring had arrived very late this year, resulting in fewer chicks than expected. His observation visits had been restricted to the southern end of the pool at Rosper Road Pitts to avoid any disturbance to nesting birds, but he had noted that there were two islands in the pool that may require some cleaning during next year, to ensure they remain beneficial to wildlife. There was also discussion on the topical subject of bees, particularly with yesterday being National Bee Day. Fiona Scott had recently attended a pollinators workshop and an approach from a local beekeeper's club within Witham First DIBD had been made, requesting assistance for hosting hives at Timberland Fen, Walcott Bank. This would be a good pilot to see if the initiative would be suitable to extend to other Boards.

Members received and noted the Environment report for 2018/19 and plans for 2019/20.

#### **15. Director of Operations & Engineering Services' Report.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented along with a verbal update.

- **Planned Maintenance**

The Board's contractor, Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd, had undertaken a programme of de-silting of the Middle Drain system. This work removed the accumulated silt that had built up in the channel system over time, due to leakage from the gravity discharge culvert's pointing doors. These were 'life expired' and allowed the ingress of tidal water. This silt laden water resulted in the deposition of silt over a number of years, reducing the conveyance capability of the

channel system. Following this work, the system was expected to return to its original capacity.

- EFRA Committee Inquiry.

The Board made a submission to the EFRA committee's inquiry into Coastal Flooding and adaption to climate change. The questions to which it submitted responses were:

1. What are the risks and consequences of Coastal Flooding?
2. What progress has been made to implement coastal erosion and flooding adaption measures, and how much more still needs to be done?
3. Is the application and approvals process for coastal erosion and flooding adaption measures working effectively? If not, how could it be improved?
4. Is adequate funding available to counter coastal erosion and build and maintain coastal defences?
5. Is there a transparent process, criteria and timeframe for determining when to support or withdraw from coastal erosion and flooding adaptation measures, and does the process inspire public confidence in decision-making?
6. This year, the UK Government will publish its long-term policy statement on flooding and coastal erosion, and the Environment Agency will issue a new 50-year strategy – what should they each prioritise?

In addition to this individual submission, the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) submitted a response on behalf of all IDBs (see earlier discussion at 5.2).

- Environment Agency.

The Board had been advised that the issue of siltation of gravity outfalls and adverse effect of sea level rise has been recognised as an issue for consideration as part of the EA led Humber Strategy Comprehensive Review. This was welcome news, as this issue directly affected every outfall upon which the Board's systems rely, be they maintained and operated wholly by the Board, by the Environment Agency or other third party. Information describing these structures and their catchments was submitted to the Agency project group.

- Public Sector Co-operation Agreement [PSCA]

The Board had continued to undertake PSCA work on behalf of the Environment Agency totalling (£94k) in 2018/19 and will do again in 2019/20. The bulk of the summer maintenance work will be undertaken between July and October 2019, with obstruction runs completed on a monthly basis.

The Director of Operations and Operations Manager met with the EA on 19th December and 17th January to discuss work programmes for the 2019/20, year which are estimated as follows:

<b>Watercourse</b>	<b>Estimated Work Value</b>
East Halton Skitter	£ 15,233.00
Brocklesby Beck	£ 1,364.00
Stallingborough North Beck	£ 31,899.00
Oldfleet Drain	£ 17,725.00
Buck Beck & Goosepaddle Drain	£ 39,704.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 105,925.00</b>

- **Skitter Beck Branch No2.**

Works on Skitter Beck Branch no.2 at East Halton disused railway culvert were expected to commence in the near future. Officers had liaised with Network Rail, owner of the culvert, and Cadent who have assets in the location, to make the necessary arrangements. It was hoped that it would be possible to commission a contractor within two or three weeks, quotations having been received, and have the work completed over summer 2019.

- **Middle Drain Pumping Station**

Consultant Engineers for the Board, Peter Brett Associates (PBA), had constructed a computer based catchment model of this system. A draft report was received by the Board's officers and comments would be made on the contents before sign-off. Initial results showed that no properties would be flooded by water from the Board's maintained system, even during extreme rainfall events. The Board's Officers met with PBA to discuss the results and various corrections and amendments are to be made to the model following these discussions. However, the fundamental results would remain largely unchanged.

The installation of the new pump control panel at Middle Drain PS had been arranged with Paktronic Ltd. of Grantham. Liaison with Northern Power arranging the disconnection of power to the site has proved somewhat problematic.

Discussions were held with the EA regarding their proposed temporary works commencing 03.06.19 damming off the gravity discharge. With these in place, and no pumping capacity available, conditions would be monitored very closely and installation would be postponed if there was doubt.

Work to de-silt the channel system and de-silt culverts had been completed. This work extended upstream to North Moss Lane and Kiln Lane and included the clearing of access culverts. The material was removed using long reach excavators and placed on the adjacent access strips and arable fields. The co-operation of the adjacent land owners was noted by the Board as this work represented significant disturbance to a number of them. The period of time since such work was last completed resulted in a large amount of material being removed and deposited.

- **Woodhall Spa Country Show**

The Board was represented at the Show on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as part of the display provided by the four Boards. The display gives numerous examples of the work IDBs undertake now and in the past along with the plant used.

- **Timberland Pumping Station Open Days 2019**

The station would open to the general public on Sunday, 02<sup>nd</sup> June to coincide with the opening of the Dogdyke Pumping Station Preservation Trust and ensure maximum publicity and attendance. A second opportunity to view the station is Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, as part of the Lincolnshire Heritage Weekend of events.

- **Lincolnshire Show 2019**

The Board will also be represented by the ADA stand in the Environment area of the Show on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. The stand, CS-21 will be located in the environment area [near the clock tower and next to the fly-fishing ponds]. ADA extends an invitation to all to attend the stand to understand how the Boards work in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, District Councils and the Environment Agency to manage the risk of flooding and water levels.

Members received and noted the report and presentation.

## 16. Engineering Services Report.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Engineering Services Officer. The report provided information on the planning applications received by the Board and detail of the comments submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA).

One particular application was highlighted to members:

DM\_0062\_19\_FUL  
ND-4504-2019-PLN

**Variation application of condition 15 (Approved Plans) as granted on DM/1192/15/FUL (Erection of 10 detached) (previously approved application DC/651/11/WAB)) to change house type of plot 8. Land South Of Ings Lane Waltham North East Lincolnshire**

“Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the North East Lindsey Internal Drainage Board area and adjacent to the Board maintained watercourse 1C.

The Board **Objects** to the revised plan, the structure is shown within the Board byelaw distance of 7m. Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over or within 7m of the top of the bank of a Board maintained watercourse. The full 7m should be kept clear of all obstructions to allow for maintenance, repair and potential improvement, Consent would not be granted for the proposed site plan. In addition the proximity of the watercourse will have implications to the foundation design”.

Cllr. Parkinson requested clarification on SuDS schemes and maintenance by the Board. He was advised that the Board is able to take over a SUDS scheme if it had been involved. However, general practice was not to do so. The implications of doing so would be permanent responsibility for the scheme and permanent cost. However, members were reminded that they are perfectly entitled to adopt a scheme if they felt it necessary / desirable to do so and there may be occasions when the Board may wish to do this.

Members noted the report.

## 17. Consents and Enforcements Report.

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Engineering Services Officer.

Byelaw Consent Applications:

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
ND-4496-2019-CON	Drain 12H, Abbey Rd / Thornton Lane, Ulceby	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Foul sewer crossing above culvert	04-04-19
ND-4559-2019-CON	Drain 10, Rosper Rd, North Killingholme	Able Humber Ports	Temporary culvert for construction traffic	04-04-19

ND-4585-2019-CON	Drain 1C, off Ings Lane, Waltham	Mr A Zitman	Part of new dwelling within byelaw distance	12-04-19
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**Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – District:**

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
ND-4484-2019-CON	Off Moody Lane, Grimsby	Associated British Ports	Stormwater discharge limited to 5.4.sec <sup>-1</sup>	13-02-19

**Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – Extended Area**

The Board acts as Agent for Lincolnshire County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority (in the WLDC element of the Drainage district, in other extended areas NELC and NLC staff process these):

None received

**Enforcement Issues – District:**

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
ND-3462-2017-ENF	South Brocklesby	Previously consented temporarily. Too high for permanent consent	MS & DS Investigating

**Enforcement Issues – Extended District**

The Board acts as Agent for Lincolnshire County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority (in the WLDC element of the drainage district, in other extended areas NELC and NLC staff process these):

None received

Members received and NOTED the report on consents and enforcement cases.

**18. Immingham Motor Cycle Track.**

A paper had been circulated with the agenda to promote discussion as to the future of land owned by the Board (2.17 hectares) off King's Road near Immingham, adjacent to the A1173. A location map of the site in question was provided that showed an adjacent triangle of land owned by Brocklesby Estate. The land was currently not being used for any purpose, neither was it an environmental asset at present. It had become scrubland.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003 the Board entered into a lease agreement with North East Lincolnshire Council relating to this land. The Board acted as landlord and the lease allowed for the 'permitted use' of the land by the council for an off-road motorcycle course for informal recreational purposes and the siting of one transport container for the storage of motorcycles and spare parts, all in accordance with planning permission for said use (planning permission being granted by NELC on 07.12.2001, reference DC/967/01/IMM). A rental sum of £1.00 per annum was paid by NELC. There was also a 'sub-tenant', the Immingham Motor Bike Project Ltd.

The intent of the motorcycle project was supported by the then policing supervisor for the area, as an effort to reduce motorcycle anti-social behaviour. It reduced complaints and turned around the lives of youngsters and turned them away from offending behaviour. The

project terminated when national and local authority funding ceased. Approaches had been made to the Board and members were invited to discuss options.

The Chief Executive suggested there appeared now to be four options regarding the land:

#### 18.1 Option 1

On 01.05.19 the Board was approached by NELC's ASB Co-ordinator (retired policing supervisor involved with the previous motorcycle project). He has asked the Board to consider a new interest in the land. During the last few months NELC had apparently received calls for the police service and for Local Authorities to address local concerns about lack of youth facilities. Public consultations suggested vehicle ASB (motorcycles) were at the top of the list of concerns. Working with Immingham Town Council's new Town Clerk, NELC's ASB Co-ordinator proposed to resurrect the Immingham Motorcycle Project (IMP).

A lot of work had yet to be done, but the Board had been asked to consider entering once again into a lease agreement with NELC regarding the land. In addition, and whilst this was outside of the Board's remit, NELC and Immingham Town Council were apparently also interested in the adjacent parcel of land also being part of the project involving land owned by the Brocklesby Estate.

The initial concept was to re-instate a motorcycle track and a BMX track, along with other field sports like Archery. Humberside police and the local Youth Offending Service had indicated interest in the concept, as a positive engagement facility which would be unique to the area.

#### 18.2 Option 2

Option 2 was to combine the Option 1 project and the Board having some alternative land use. This may be an environmental scheme like meadow planting, which would require an annual maintenance cut (August). Or, members could explore whether in addition to motor-cycle and BMX tracks the project could incorporate a 'food planting scheme' (e.g. field to fork) as part of an ASB reduction initiative. This would be led as a project by the Environment / GIS Officer.

Options 1 and 2 therefore entail the Board maintaining the 2.17 hectares in the Board's ownership and the Board not declaring the land as surplus to its requirements.

#### 18.3 Option 3

Option 3 is for the Board to declare the 2.17 hectares as surplus to requirements and to seek to dispose of the land on the open market to achieve best value income to the Board.

In deciding whether or not to do this, members considered whether there was any 'hope value' to the land for future development.

#### 18.4 Option 4

The Board had been approached informally by an individual who is interested in purchasing / renting (not specified) the land, his objective being to obtain planning



permission for the land to be utilised as an overnight lorry park. The proposition would involve widening the entrance to the site, installation of secure fencing, at least four mobile lights, installation of a porta cabin with septic tank and laying the area to hardcore surfacing.

Following much discussion, the view of the Chairman and Vice Chairman was to support Option 1. It was acknowledged that Option 2 to combine option 1 with an Environmental Scheme could be fraught with difficulties as it is sited on the edge of an urban area. Mr. Colquhoun stated that given Immingham has a new Town Council Clerk and that the land is not critical to the Board, then Option 1 would seem the sensible option. Mr Archer asked if it would be possible to defer responsibility for the land to Immingham Town Council. The Chief Executive confirmed that Option 1 could be negotiated and agreed via a Tenancy Agreement between the Board and North East Lincolnshire Council, subject to NELC being in a position to proceed within a reasonable timescale and at no cost to the Board.


Members AGREED that Option 1 should be pursued and the Chief Executive would make further arrangements via NELC on behalf of the Board, with the aim of the project restarting from 2020/21 and being wholly funded from sources external to the Board.

**17. Any other Business.**

There were no further items of business and the meeting closed at 16:15.

**18. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at The Amethyst Hotel, East Halton. It will commence at 2.00pm.

..........Chairman.....17th Sept 2019.....Date

NEL BM 21.05.19.

