

WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the one hundred and ninth meeting of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, held on Tuesday, 26th November 2019 at Minting Village Hall, Bricken Field Lane, Minting, LN9 5RX at 10.30am.

Present:

Mr. R. Armstrong.
Cllr. T Ashton
Cllr. S. M. Avison
Mr. B. Charlesworth.
Mr. W. S. Crane
Cllr. I. G. Fleetwood
Mr. R. J. Garner
Mr. R. P. Hairsine
Cllr. G. Hewson
Ms. J. F. Holland
Mr. D. C. Hoyes ^{MBE}
Mr. P. R. Hoyes (Chairman)
Mr. D. Jackson
Cllr. T. Kemp
Cllr. Mrs. F. M. Martin ^{MBE}
Mr. I. R. Parker
Mr. M. I. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. P. Vaughan
Mr. R. J. Weightman

In attendance:

Miss Jayne Flower	Executive Assistant
Mrs Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
Mr Steve Larter	Director of Finance and Governance
Mr Martin Shilling	Director of Operations and Engineering Services

2752 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. Boyall, Mr. I. M. Clark, Cllr. S. England, Cllr. W. H. Gray, Cllr. Mrs. C. Grimble, Mr. S. Matthews and Mr. T. Williams.

2753 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.

2754 Election of Chairman

Mr Paul Hoyes was proposed, seconded and there being no other nominations for the role of Chairman he was duly elected.

2755 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman thanked his colleagues for re-electing him as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

He gave a brief rundown of the heavy rainfall in June, followed by six heavy rainfall events, creating a big impact on the Board's systems and pumping stations.

Some of that impact on the Board's systems had been as a result of failures in the Environment Agency's maintained main river systems. Two of the four IDBs in the Group, namely Witham Third and Witham First, had been particularly affected by a combination of main river bank breaches (like the one at Barlings Eau), bank overtopping incidents (like Duckpool Catchwater) and significant bank seepage (like that at Dogdyke).

The impacts had been considerable on the Board's staff working additional hours over the last couple of months.

One of the most significant impacts was at the Board's Stainfield Pumping Station, where the bank breach at Barlings Eau had flooded 1,500 acres of farmland and in so doing it had inundated the Board's Pumping Station. Western Power had isolated the Pumping Station but as of 25th November there was still 2.5 feet of water within the station. When safe entry was possible, Paktronic had been instructed to assess the motor control panel and repair, Perrys Pumps were on standby to repair a damaged pump bearing and Axflow had been booked to take out and repair the pump electrical motor. This would be pursued as an insurance claim. The Board's Officers were working with the EA on their recovery plan for the area.

The Chairman then proposed bringing item 19 on the agenda, the Operations report, forward so that Officers would spend time briefing members on the situation. This was agreed.

2756 Election of Vice Chairman

Mr Max Thomas was proposed, seconded and there being no further nominations, elected to the role of Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

2757 Election of Standing Committee members

The current eight members were elected en bloc to the Board's Standing Committee for the ensuing year. Namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr. R. Armstrong, Mr. I. Clark, Cllr. I.G. Fleetwood, Mr. D. Hoyes, MBE, Mr. I. Parker and Mr. T. Williams.

2758 Election of Joint Services Committee members

The current three members and two deputies were re-elected to the Joint Services Committee for the ensuing year. Namely, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Mr. I.M. Clark. Deputies are Cllr. I. Fleetwood and Mr. R. Armstrong.

2759 Calendar of Board and Standing Committee dates for 2020

Members agreed the following dates for the Board meetings and Standing Committee meetings:

Board Meetings (Minting Village Hall at 09.30am (not 10.30am))

- Tuesday, 28th January
- Tuesday, 19th May
- Tuesday, 22nd September
- Tuesday, 17th November (+APM)

Standing Committee Meetings (W3rd Depot at 10am)

- Tuesday, 14th January
- Tuesday, 05th May
- Tuesday, 08th September
- Tuesday, 03rd November

2760 Register of Members' Interests

A copy of the Register of Members' Interests form had been circulated with the agenda. Members were requested to complete this and return it to Officers present at the meeting or to Witham House, so that an up-to-date Register for November 2019 to October 2020 was maintained. Members were advised of the importance of this being an accurate record. The information in the Register may be subject, for example, to an FOI request and public disclosure and the Register serves as both protection for the Board and for individual members.

2761 Minutes of the Board Meeting, 24.09.19.

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Tuesday, 24th September 2019 were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

2761.1 Minutes of the Board Meeting 22.05.19 Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCAs) (minute 2736.3 refers).

A meeting had been arranged by ADA (national) with the Environment Agency for 05th December 2019 in London, which the Chief Executive would attend.

2762 Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting, 12.11.19.

The minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 12th November 2019 were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record and the recommendations to the Board were NOTED.

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

2763 Chief Executive's Report.

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda. Issues highlighted included:

2763.1 Electricity Costs Summary.

Electricity at Pumping Stations is one of the big cost drivers for IDBs and we do see a correlation between high rainfall, pumped hours and electricity costs. October 2019 was a high cost month.

A detailed breakdown of electricity costs by Pumping Station, by Board, by month for the last 3 years to October 2019 had been undertaken (this is separately available). Some headlines include:

<u>Board</u>	<u>Oct 2019</u> <u>Costs</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>Costs 7</u> <u>months April</u> <u>to Oct 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2019/20</u>	<u>Oct-18</u>
W1st	£ 44,633.22	£ 77,121.80	£ 56,485.00	£ 2,366.48
W3rd	£ 14,343.73	£ 42,186.56	£ 60,000.00	£ 2,481.77
NELDB	£ 7,542.25	£ 17,206.44	£ 13,000.00	£ 467.49
UW	£ 8,603.65	£ 27,114.29	£ 41,000.00	£ 2,743.35

Costs in Witham First DIDB for October 2019 stand out as an outlier. This is in part the many more hours than usual pumped, the lack of a gravity alternative (contrast say, with NELDB) and the additional water feeding into the Board's systems and Pumping Stations from breaches / overtopping of the EA's main river systems. A list of additional pumping is being maintained to calculate the additional cost impact and a 'Statement of Claim' will be submitted to the EA. However, it was noted that Witham Third had spent £42.2k in the first 7 months of 2019/20.

2763.2 Update on UW new depot and joint office facility at Meadow Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

UW's old depot site was handed over to the contractor Taylor Pearson Construction Ltd. on 01.05.19 for demolition, clearance and construction of the new Upper Witham depot and joint office on that existing site.

The overall main contract and contingency sum of £15k totalled £1,072,335.12. This contract was for a 40 weeks period to 05.02.20.

Demolition and ground clearance works proceeded well and the contractor was optimistic of an early completion for December 2019. An intended practical completion date of 20.12.19 was envisaged by the contractor, but w/c 04.11.19 this was jointly revised with the contractor to 31.01.20.

The Board's client-side Project Lead is Mr Garry Winterton, Enforcement Officer (a retired Director of Building Control and Inspector). He has carried out continuous monitoring of the building work as it has progressed. Meetings between the main contractor and UW's client officer are held fortnightly to ensure forward planning and a smooth running of the project. Internal briefings are held fortnightly to monitor progress and control budget spend (e.g. variations).

After an exceptionally good start (in terms of weather, demolition works, ground conditions and ground works), the project has suffered some delays and additional costs due to the bad weather. However, the main structure has now been completed including:

- Foundation
- Building envelope
- External drainage
- Internal floors
- Internal Walls
- First fix electrical (about 90% completed as at 06.11.19).
- Underfloor heating
- Photovoltaic panels
- As at 06.11.19 windows glazing substantially completed.

Following handover of the building, internal fitout of the depot and office will commence (e.g. depot racking, secure storage, locker room, mess room).

Staff at Witham House have been involved in preparations for the office move.

In terms of the financing of the scheme, Upper Witham took out a 30 year loan from the Public Works Loan Board in December 2018 for £1,200,000. Payments to the main contractor as at 29.10.19 totalled £636,844.65, with total payments to 29.10.19 being £689,797.05.

As part of the project, but keeping the finances separate, Upper Witham is selling the existing Witham House building at Weaver Road in Lincoln. After 3 valuations, Banks Long were appointed to market the property. An offer of £255,000 was accepted by the Chairman and Chief Executive and the sale is proceeding, with an expected completion date of 14.02.20 to suit both parties. This will be income to Upper Witham's reserves.

2763.3 Proposed Pay Settlement 2020/21.

Cllr Lance Pennell, Upper Witham Board member, represents the 4 IDBs on the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Pay & Conditions Committee. He and the Chief Executive attended the last meeting on 08.10.19 (he chaired the meeting). Management and staff side discussed the pay settlement for 2020/21 (to resolve this for inclusion in January budgets setting).

After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch and to Unison for a staff consultative ballot, a pay settlement of 3.7% for 2020/21 and the introduction of a pay formula on the same basis for 3 years from 2020/21. The exact wording of the agreement being:

“Proposal 1

As per the Office for National Statistics EARN01 Average Weekly Earnings – Total pay, Great Britain (Seasonally adjusted)
Provisional July figure, published in September, for the Public Sector, 3 month average (KAC9), % change year on year.
For the financial year 2020/21 this is 3.7%

Proposal 2

As per proposal 1 for three years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 and carrying on beyond that unless 12 months' notice given by either party (Employers or employees) to re-enter negotiations.

All subject to any national legislation being introduced.”

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch met on 17.10.19 and agreed the Committee's recommended proposals for a pay settlement. This will form the basis of ADA White Book pay scales from 01.04.20.

However, it is for each IDB's Board to determine whether or not it accepts the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay settlement or whether it sets a different settlement.

Members were content to AGREE the recommended pay settlement for 2020/21.

Members received and NOTED the report and verbal update.

2763 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.09.19 to 31.10.19.

The Schedule of Expenditure for the two months' period 01st September to 31st October 2019 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Finance Consultant. The schedule relates to those invoices paid in the period (so, for example, electricity costs at Pumping Stations for October would not be received and paid until November).

Gross expenditure totalled £359,109.93 or, net of £32,347.91 VAT, £326,761.02. Of this, £31,994.52 was recharged to other bodies.

Items highlighted to or raised by members included:

- Item 141: £15,974.00 (net) to Perry's Pumps Ltd for the removal, refurbishment and recommissioning of Pump no.1 and motor at Shortferry Pumping Station.
- Item 142: £13,126.50 (net) to Perry's Pumps Ltd for the motor refurbishment at Stainfield Pumping Station. These works will, unfortunately need to be redone following the flooding.

Members received and NOTED the expenditure incurred in the two months 01.09.19 and 31.10.19.

2764 Financial Performance Report to 31st October 2019, month 7 of 2019/20.

The Director of Finance presented the Financial Performance Report to 31st October 2019, month 7 of 2019/20. This had been circulated with the agenda. The summary was as follows:

	2019/20 Estimate	Profiled Budget	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£	£
Income	(1,185,403)	(1,120,574)	(1,210,847)	(90,273)
Board & General Admin	21,260	10,811	11,354	543
One Off Schemes	90,000	0	19,447	19,447
Conservation	2,000	1,063	339	(724)
Depot	30,939	26,729	29,711	2,982
Drains	551,205	359,060	355,973	(3,087)
Pumping Stations	211,818	130,948	161,660	30,712
Joint Admin/Witham House	123,881	89,773	109,471	19,698
Consents & Enforcement	14,290	22,886	25,873	2,987
Director of Operations/Engineers	94,003	58,795	60,130	1,335
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(76,250)	0	(19,447)	(19,447)
PWLB				0
Rechargeable Works	15,000	8,487	88,549	80,062
EA Precept	107,257	53,629	52,577	(1,052)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)				0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	2,558	(38,785)	(41,343)
(Surplus)/Deficit	0	(355,835)	(353,995)	1,840

In terms of the overall position, the profiled budget indicated a month 7 31.10.19 minor deficit position of £1,840 so it was in-line with budget profile.

On income, the approved Estimates for 2019/20 were (£1,185,403) full-year, with a profiled income estimated to 31.10.19 of (£1,120,574) and an actual income to 31.10.19 of (£1,210,847) which is a positive variance of (£90,273).

On main categories of income, both tranches of Special Levies from the 3 relevant Councils had been received on 01.05.19 and 01.11.19 (and for consistency those received on 01.11.19 were included within the position).

Also on income the Highland Water claim was submitted to the EA. This was firstly the balance on the actual claim for 2018/19 of (£44,962) and in addition 80% (£156,800) of the total estimated claim of (£196,000) for 2019/20. The EA paid (£201,762) to the Board by the 30.09.19 due date.

On Drainage Rates income, of a total £188,219.75 raised for 2019/20, £183,526.69 income had been received as at 31.10.19, which is a collection rate of 97.4% (compared with 99.5% at month 7 2018/19). First reminders had been posted on 01.08.19 and final reminders were despatched on 23rd September. A court date had been set in Lincoln for unpaid account holders on 29.11.19.

Some of the variations, up and down, were then highlighted on income and expenditure:

- One off schemes, £19k. Part payment for a new control panel (MCC) at Southrey Pumping Station, to be met from reserves
- Joint administration / Witham House, £20k. The first 6 months of invoices to 30.09.19 had been produced and recharged between the group of 4 IDBs. The next invoices will be prepared as at 31.12.19.
- Consents and Enforcements, £3k. The actual costs 2019/20 will be invoiced to LCC at the year end, as per the Memorandum of Understanding with LCC to 31.03.21 as the Lead Local Flood Authority.
- Rechargeable works, £80k. Additional works undertaken by the Board to be invoiced to other bodies, mainly the EA for PSCA works undertaken on main rivers.
- EA IDB precept (£1k). First payment (of two) made by the Board to the EA of £52,577 in July 2019. Second payment due in November.

Finally, the report set out bank balances and investments as at 01.11.19:

Natwest	£	131,762.74
Nationwide Instant Access	£	610,593.28
Nationwide 95 Day Notice	£	518,636.36
Total		<u>£ 1,260,992.38</u>

Members received and noted the financial performance report to 31st October 2019, month seven of 2019/20.

2765 Health and Safety Report.

A Health and Safety update prepared by the Operations Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering.

Unfortunately, it was necessary to report that two accidents had occurred on Witham Third since September. There had also been one on Upper Witham.

The first on Witham Third occurred as an Operative hit an electric cable crossing a watercourse. The cable was in ducting, it had no warning markers and was not visible due to heavy vegetation. Western Power attended to repair and there were no injuries. The cable is in Southrey Catchwater, supplying the sewage works. The cable is now wrapped in warning tape and Western Power have supplied safety markers.

The second happened whilst clearing debris from a watercourse in Sudbrooke Wood. The Operative lifted a large log and whilst doing so slipped, dropping the log onto his foot. The impact was behind the steel toecap causing bruising and swelling. No time was taken off from this accident. This watercourse is a known hot spot for anti-social behaviour, leading to debris in the watercourse that Operatives must clear.

An Operative of Upper Witham IDB, whilst cleaning the rear and roof window of his wheeled excavator, slipped from the machine falling over 2 metres on to a concrete beet pad and landing on his back. After being taken to A&E he was later discharged with no broken bones or internal injuries but he was very badly bruised and shaken up. The Operative had a couple of days off (over the weekend, not working days) and returned to work the following Monday.

An investigation had been completed and identified that had there been a safety rail on the top of the machine this could have been avoided. All new excavators ordered now come with safety rails and the Operations Manager is investigating and evaluating quotes for retro fitting rails to the current machines. Cost will be approximately £700.00 per machine, fitted by a company called Cab Care.

Training continues for employees from all four Boards including Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd, Contractors for North East Lindsey Drainage Board. Overhead Cable Avoidance training has been completed for all Operatives. Carnaby's have five of their Operatives trained. Training is booked for the safe operating of the Robo Mower for four Operatives.

The first Health and Safety meeting with the newly appointed representatives had taken place. There were several issues raised at this meeting, the biggest of those being lone working. The Operations Manager will provide a more detailed report on these upon completion of his investigations into the matter.

All Operatives have been supplied with head torches due to the hours they are having to work in the dark, particularly with the flooding and heavy rainfall events recently.

Additionally all Operatives have been issued with window hammers with seat belt cutters fitted to enable them to get out of vehicles in the unfortunate event that they have an accident.

It was highlighted to members that as this adverse weather continued there was the potential for more accidents to occur. The dedicated workforce has now done over 20 days solid without a break and sometimes working 14 hours plus. Operatives are clearing bridge ends and weed screens with hand rakes and forks, working very close to flood waters. All Operatives have life jackets, but perceptions change when tired and something they would not ordinarily do they may do to "get the job done". It is reiterated at the start of every shift regarding safety and Supervisors listen to concerns and act upon them. Tiredness is a danger.

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

2766 Environment Report

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering.

There was a slight change in the District this year compared to the owl box checks for 2018. The barn owl (*Tyto alba*) pair at box 2930 in Greetwell had one well-fed chick, compared to failing on eggs last year. Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) had been present in two boxes at Greetwell PS and Dogdyke, however many kestrels bred very early this year, so these had already fledged before the checks. A failed tawny owl egg was discovered at the Horncastle Canal box in Tattershall, as was a roosting adult barn owl. A barn owl chick was also ringed at Dogdyke South Pump.

Fewer jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) were present in boxes this year. However, a higher number of boxes were not in use, 6 in total.

The box camera at Southrey continues to work well, however the residents are currently stock doves (*Columba oenas*).

The wildlife site at Southrey remains successful and is well used by the public. The persistence of broad-leaved dock (*Remex obtusifolius*) and horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*) has subsided thanks to glyphosate spot treatment and soil turning, and a wildflower meadow was replanted in early September. The shoots have come through and is already showing signs of success. We now await summer 2020 to see the results.

There have been further sightings of the otter (*Lutra lutra*) in Stixwoud Engine Drain and Turners Soke Dyke. A tell-tale sign of otter presence is swan mussel shells (*Anodonta cygnea*) on the sides of the bank, and otter spraints which will contain fish scales.

Members received and noted the report.

2767 Director of Operations & Engineering Services' Report.

The Director's report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented, together with a verbal update. The majority of the meeting was devoted to this item.

High Rainfall Event September - October 2019

- **General Catchment Conditions**

The 'Monthly water situation report', generated by the Environment Agency on a monthly basis, provided a factual description of catchment conditions and the September report confirmed our experiences. Its summary states that:

- September saw above average rainfall across the county with the majority falling within the last two weeks of the month
- The majority of catchments saw around 200% of the long-term average for the time of year
- River flows are all above the normal range
- Ground water levels in the northern limestone aquifer shows increased levels
- Soil moisture deficit continues to fall and is now 'extremely' low for this time of year.

In particular:

- Rainfall for the catchment Witham to Chapel Hill was exceptionally high with a total of 106mm, 219% of long term average

- Rainfall for the Witham to Chapel Hill since June is considered to be 'above normal'.
- Soil Moisture Deficits have varied between 'notably low' in June to 'exceptionally low' in September
- River flows at Barlings Eau, Langworth are considered 'exceptionally high'
- Groundwater level in the central Limestone area are 'exceptionally high' for the time of year

The figures for October will be worse as it was relatively dry for the first two weeks of September and much of the water took several days to appear at the various gauging stations and recording points. Despite this time lag, the figures demonstrate the very wet conditions experienced across our 4 districts and catchments.

- **Barlings Eau Catchment**

The Barlings Eau valley was inundated within hours and extensive flooding occurred throughout the valley from its confluence with the Old Witham at Branston Island upstream to the confluence with the Board maintained system near Welton Hill.

High levels within main river have caused problems throughout the 4 districts especially where gravity system rely on a clear a free discharge. For example, Reephram Brook into the Eau. Here high levels in the Eau caused the Brook to 'back up' and overspill into the North Engine Drain, thus spillage water from a gravity system into a pumped system. This results in additional pumping hours and costs to the receiving Board. Max Thomas commented that when it was at its peak the Eau was overtopping on standard peaks in at least 3 or 4 locations.

In this instance the overspill was protected and was constructed for this purpose. Unfortunately, the water could not be retained by the weir and ran onto land that had not been reinforced and was easily eroded. A 10m length of embankment was damaged and will require remedial work. However, the Brook was retained by a line of steel sheet piles installed as part of the weir.

All tributaries flowing toward the Eau, Marsh Drain, Snakeholme Drain and the Old Witham as it runs around Branston Island were very high and flowed out of banks on occasion. At Sambre Beck, which is an IDB maintained watercourse, it was unable to discharge due to the high levels within the EA main system at Marsh Drain. Both watercourses overtopped onto adjacent land.

- **Stainfield Pumping Station**

The breach of the left hand Barlings Eau occurred in the early hours of 09th November 2019 at the same location as the 2007 breach. The station was made safe but was inundated by floodwater to a depth of some 1.2 metres. All switchgear must be checked and / or repaired before it is operational again. The motor has been inundated and requires refurbishment urgently. A contractor has been appointed to carry out the essential works before the station can be recommissioned. Officers have requested the EA to start using mobile pumps when they can. The compound containing the submersible station was almost completely submerged to a depth of some 2.1 metres. A specific request has been made for the ultra-high volume pumps, otherwise it could take up to 28 days to pump the water away.

- **Southrey Pumping Station**

The recently installed motor control centre [MCC] was damaged due to overheated wiring within the pump control section. This resulted in a number of elements being burnt out and the complete loss of the motor to pump no.1. This incident is in the hands of the Board's insurers following assessment by an independent Engineer.

Water levels within the catchment were very high and resulted in land being flooded immediately adjacent to the Stixwold Engine Drain. Despite water being transferred to

adjacent catchment [Manor Farm, Duckpool and Woodhall Spa] it was necessary to use a diesel pump at Stixwold on 27th and 28th October to control levels within the catchment.

	No.1	No.2	Station Total
September	72 hrs	29 hrs	101 hrs
October	0hrs	171 hrs	171 hrs

- **Duckpool Pumping Station**

This single pump station has served the Stixwold Engine Drain catchment during this period of high rainfall. During the weekend of 27th October, additional capacity was provided by the operation of the Stixwold Diesel engine.

	No.1	Station Total
September	4 hrs	4 hrs
October	159 hrs	159 hrs

- **Short Ferry Pumping Station**

This station has dealt within its usual flows coming out of Lincoln and the intervening land along with the overspill from Reepham Brook. It has suffered from a malfunctioning ultrasonic head which has affected the automatic operation of the station at times. However, all levels are back under control and at normal settings.

A contract has been awarded to Paktronic Ltd. of Grantham for the fabrication and commissioning of a new Motor Control Centre which will control the operation of the pump motors and automated weedscreen. This work has an estimated budget value of £60,000 and is programmed for completion by the end of March 2020. A list of the tenders received is set out below:

Paktronic Ltd	£53,983
Interlec	£52,156
CEMA Ltd.	£37,552 [incomplete with some items not priced or included within their offer]

- **Environment Agency**

Public Service Cooperation Agreement [PSCA]

On 1st November, all Drainage Boards undertaking work on behalf of the EA under the PSCA were instructed to cease work. This instruction was issued due to damage being caused to raised embankment by machines working on them whilst they were saturated. The damage was not caused by a Drainage Board, but a contractor.

This is an illustration of the very wet and saturated conditions being experienced by all those working on the drain and river sides over the last few weeks and months.

Main River

Since September, there have been numerous reports of seepage through the raised earth embankments, over topping and breaching of the main river system. As affects Witham Third DIB:

- Barlings Eau, upstream of Langworth, overtopping, many locations

- Snakeholme Drain, B1202 road junction left hand bank, road flooding,
- Stainfield Beck, upstream Stainfield road bridge, right hand bank,
- Bain Valley, left and right hand bank overtopping
- Duckpool Catchwater Drain, right hand bank upstream of Tupholme Abbey Drain
- River Witham, Dogdyke, left hand bank seepage
- River Witham, Kirkstead, left hand bank seepage

The total rainfall for the seven months from May to November 2019 (to date) was 737 mm for the district.

Many, if not most of the Board's issues were caused by failure of EA main rivers. All Hallows Drain and Duckpool Catchwater Drain did overtop.

Gary Hewson noted that this type of event could be expected to become the norm. These are not unusual rainfall events anymore. He further stated that he believed the percentage of trees in Lincolnshire is way down on the rest of the country.

Ian Fleetwood stated that organisations need to work together more to tackle these events as they become more prevalent.

Martin Shilling reminded members that it was a system designed in the 1960's, making the Lower Witham system over 40 years old. Nowhere within this system was supposed to support trees. The City of Lincoln was put under stress because the levels in Lower Witham were not going down. Because of the high rainfall and chronic level of the Witham the Flood Alleviation System was operated differently to its original plan, however the EA operated this FAS to the best of their ability. Urban areas were protected as much as possible and it could be seen that not many homes were actually flooded.

Members received and NOTED the report and the verbal update and presentation.

2768 Engineering Services Report.

The Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering Services.

There were no issues of concern to highlight to members.

Members received and NOTED the report and the comments submitted to Local Planning Authorities.

2769 Consents and Enforcements Report

The Consents and Enforcements Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Operations and Engineering:

Byelaw Consent Applications

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
TD-4785-2019-CON	2016 Reepham Beck / Barlings Lane, Langworth	Bransby Horses	New culvert 2.1m dia, 9m long. (Size to be checked)	21-10-19
TD-4828-2019-CON	2013 Sudbrooke Beck	Anglian Water Services	1450m of 160mm dia rising main	11-09-19

Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – District

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
TD-4875-2019-CON	Roughton Road, Kirkby on Bain	GN construction Ltd	9m long 450mm dia farm access culvert	21-10-19

Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – Extended Area

The Board acts as Agent for Lincolnshire County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
TE-4645-2018-CON	South of St Augustine Road, Lincoln	Persimmon Homes South Yorkshire	Development requires two new culverts	
TE-4908-2019-CON	Manor Farm, Wickenby	Jim Cowan Ltd	Discharges from 4no. dwellings	28-10-19

Enforcement Issues – District

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
TD-4002-2018-ENF	Linwood Drain, Friesthorpe	Saplings on watercourse	Ian to look at this and carry out work if necessary
TD-4913-2019-ENF	A153 Sleaford Road, Tattershall	Blocked culvert	Referred to LCC

Enforcement Issues – Extended Area

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
TE-3823-2018-ENF	New Apley, Market Rasen	Blocked culvert	Awaiting LCC to confirm work completed
TE-3908-2018-ENF	Woodhall Spa Road, Stixwold	Road flooding	Awaiting update from LCC re jet culvert
TE-3911-2018-ENF	Badgers Holt, Bushlingthorpe	Flooding in garden	Awaiting LCC to jet culvert
TE-3938-2018-ENF	Great Sturton, Horncastle	Property flooding	Remedial works ongoing
TE-3981-2018-ENF	Bleasby, Market Rasen	Road flooding	Awaiting response, follow up sent
TE-4636-2019-ENF	Reepham Beck	Possible Maintenance	Awaiting response from LLFA
TE-4680-2019-ENF	Lime House, Benniworth	Overland flooding	Case Closed 30-10-19

Members received and noted the report on Consents and Enforcement cases.

2770 Any Other Business.

There being no further items of business, the meeting closed at 12:10.

2771 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 28th January 2019 at **09.30am** in Minting Village Hall.

..... Chairman Date
W3rd BM 26.11.19.