

NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of North East Lindsey Drainage Board, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, held on Tuesday, 10th November 2020 via video conference at 2pm.

Present: Mr. M. Archer
Cllr. P. Clark
Alderman I. Colquhoun
Mr. J Fussey
Mr. L. Grooby **Vice Chairman**
Cllr. S Harness
Mr. J. F. D. Hargreaves
Mr. P. J. Hoyes **Chairman**
Cllr. B. Parkinson
Cllr. G. Sheridan
Cllr. D. Wells.

In Attendance: Mr I. R. Coupland, Operations Manager
Miss J. Flower, Executive Assistant
Mrs. J. E. Froggatt, Chief Executive
Mr. G. Hird, Engineering Services Officer
Mr. S. Larter Director of Finance & Governance

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from, Mr. S. Bedford, Mr. J. Finch, Cllr. M. Green, Cllr. R. Hannigan, Mr. R. Kirk, Alderman P. Mills, Cllr. L. Nici MP, Cllr. M. Patrick, 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. Election of Chairman

Iain Colquhoun proposed Philip Hoyes as Chairman for the ensuing year, seconded by Peter Clark. With no further nominations, he was duly elected, this being unanimously AGREED by members.

4. Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to Officers Ian Coupland and Guy Hird, who were providing support for the items on the agenda normally covered by the Director of Operations & Engineering Services, Mr Martin Shilling. Following a heart attack on 17.09.20, Martin was still in recovery and not expected to return to work until at least January 2021.

Members were advised that the year's maintenance works were progressing well and the Contractor Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd was continuing to work, despite lockdown restrictions. A full update would be provided later in the meeting.

5. Election of Vice chairman

Peter Clark proposed Lionel Grooby as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year, seconded by Iain Colquhoun. With no further nominations, he was duly elected, this being unanimously AGREED by members.

6. Election of Members to the Joint Services Committee

Three members were proposed, seconded and there being no further proposals, were elected to membership of the Joint Services Committee for the forthcoming year. These were the Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Mr. Julian Hargreaves.

7. Calendar of Proposed Board Meetings 2021.

Members APPROVED the following meeting dates for 2021:

- Tuesday 19th January.
- Wednesday, 26th May.
- Tuesday, 14th September.
- Tuesday, 09th November (+Annual Public Meeting).

It was also NOTED that the four IDBs' joint Annual Inspection was planned for Thursday, 23rd September 2021.

8. 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 2020 to October 2021 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.

9. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15.09.20.

The minutes of the Board's previous Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th September 2020 were proposed by Peter Clark, seconded by David Wells and were APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

9.1 Joint Services end of year 2019/20 outturn position, 31.03.20 (minute 5.2 refers).

Julian Hargreaves questioned the negative variance. The approved Joint Services Budget for 2019/20 was £839,620. Against this budget, expenditure of

£933,572 had been incurred, therefore a negative variance of £93,952 (11%) across the 4 Boards. These figures were included in the individual Board outturn positions approved at the respective June 2020 Board meetings. It was explained that the main variances were external support £61k for Finance and HR staff, ICT £12k for additional hardware and software licences and equipment for home working. Some of these issues had been addressed in the 2020/21 budget, such as the Finance Support role is now directly employed, and the ICT budget had been increased from £12k to £20k. Mr Peter Gilbert, Witham First DIBD Chairman who had chaired the JSC meeting, had suggested that the HR cost pressure should be addressed in budget setting for 2021/22.

10. Chief Executive's Report.

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

10.1 Covid-19

The 4 Boards' arrangements to maintain business continuity were updated following the Prime Minister's announcement on 31st October introducing restrictions from Thursday, 05th November to Wednesday, 02nd December 2020.

Those staff based at Witham House office have been asked to now work from home wherever practicable, coming into the office by exception and only when necessary for specific duties which cannot be undertaken from home. Staff have been provided with ICT and mobile phones to support working from home.

The main office number 01522 697123 continues to be answered remotely during office hours, using the Unity phone app. Calls are triaged to the most appropriate person. When staff do go into the office, the post is opened, scanned and sent on electronically. Meetings continue via video conferencing; the Boards having paid for use of zoom for 12 months. The office will be closed to visitors and the public, unless by prior appointment for an essential purpose. The QR Test and Trace Code has been downloaded and is at use at the office / UW depot and each of the other 3 depots.

The Boards' Operatives will continue with the summer maintenance programme, with observance of the single person vehicle cab use policy, and with Operatives going straight from home to machines. The depots will be used only when necessary, for example for refuelling, but communal areas like the mess rooms and kitchens are to be avoided.

PPE like hand sanitiser, gloves, wipes, face masks and fogging aerosols is available for all staff to use, in the office and at the 4 depots. The emphasis is on 'Hands, Face & Space', encouraging frequent thorough hand washing, use of face coverings in circulation areas away from individual workspaces and working at a recommended distance of 2 metres and where this cannot be achieved and 1 metre is required, a dynamic risk assessment and use of precautions like face coverings.

There continued to be some logistical problems, e.g., plant breakdowns and with the restrictions of not sharing vehicles means more low-loader hire for moves. However, these are being worked around.

The emphasis remains on following national guidance and thereby to provide a safe working environment for our staff, to provide as much continuity of service as practicable, to reduce the risk of cross-infection in the workplace in order to both relieve pressure on the NHS and to ensure we keep a resilient workforce able to respond should we have a flood event.

10.2 ADA Lincolnshire Branch Recommended Pay Award 2021/22.

The four IDBs' representative on the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay & Conditions Committee is Cllr. Lance Pennell, NKDC nominated member of Upper Witham IDB. He and the Chief Executive attended the last meeting of the Committee on 07.10.20 at which the proposed pay settlement for 2021/22 [from 01.04.21] was discussed. This is year two in a three-year pay deal agreed in October 2019. The agreement is based on ONS data on Average Weekly Earnings [AWE] for total pay in the public sector, using 3 months rolling average [KAC9] for the 3 months May, June and July 2020 compared with a YOY average for the same 3 months of last year 2019, as published in September 2020. The figure published in September was a useful baseline, to enable budget setting work to build in the estimated pay costs into next year's budgets. This figure is 4.1%.

The Pay & Conditions Committee acknowledged that the figure was higher than anticipated, attributable largely to the additional hours worked in the public sector during Covid-19 in the relevant 3 months of 2020, compared with 2019. However, after discussion between management and staff sides of the Committee, it was acknowledged that a deal was a deal and it was agreed unanimously by those members present that it be recommended to the full ADA Lincolnshire Branch (in return some other claims, e.g., hours harmonisation at 37 hours from 38 per week were dropped by staff side).

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 21.10.20 agreed unanimously to adopt the recommended pay settlement of 4.1% for 2021/22. It noted that with the 8 heavy rainfall events of Autumn/ Winter 2019/20 and the challenges that presented in dealing with several flood events, plus the challenge of Covid-19 thereafter, this was appropriate.

It was highlighted, however, that it is for each Board to determine pay settlements. Members were therefore asked to determine whether to adopt the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's recommended pay settlement of 4.1% for 2021/22. **This was proposed, seconded and unanimously AGREED.**

10.3 Staffing Issues.

Garry Winterton, Enforcements Officer, returned to work on 28.10.20 following a six-month period of ill-health and a family bereavement.

10.4 Capital Schemes.

Killingholme Marshes Pumping Station

This proposed new pumping station, led by Able UK Ltd as part of the enabling works to developing the planned new quay at Immingham was due to start on site on 28.09.20. However, Guy Hird and the Chief Executive attended a video conference meeting with Peter Stephenson and Richard Cram of Able UK on 22.10.20 and several obstacles remain. In short:

- The PM's recent announcement of £160 million support for offshore wind energy was less than the £500 million anticipated.
- Two other quay bid sites rival the UK, one in Cherbourg and one in Denmark. And in the UK, there is competition between Immingham and Teesside.
- Able UK has yet to resolve with the Department for Transport the habitat mitigation requirement, whereby Able is seeking to relocate the mitigation area wetland to Halton Marshes and for 2 years has awaited the Secretary of State decision.
- Despite evidencing to the Board's officers the considerable improvements to the land drainage system over the last 15 years, the next stage in the plan involves building a railway culvert. Able UK have a bridge agreement drafted with Network Rail and technical approval, and a commuted sum agreement drafted. There is also an access agreement drafted with C.Ro Ports. Anticipated start date of April 2021, construction period of 4 months.
- It is the proposed pumping station site which is now in flux. Land has been acquired by Able UK Ltd via compulsory purchase from ABP, after a court ruling that the required 4 parcels of land should be sold by ABP. However, apparently due to a technical problem between respective lawyers, one of the plots [Plot 03023] was not purchased as intended by Able UK and remains in the ownership of ABP. This parcel of land includes 524metres sq. which is land where the pumping station outfall will be. There will it seems be negotiations between Able UK and ABP and respective legal teams as to the terms of purchase for what in effect is now a ransom strip. If this is resolved in 3-10 months as envisaged, the potential revised start date on site for the proposed pumping station is October 2021.
- Able UK Ltd are awaiting the outcome of a grant funding application via the GLLEP. The decision is expected 11.11.20. Grant monies will need to be spent by 31.03.22.
- We were advised that the coffer dam extends into the foreshore, on land that is owned by the Crown Estate. A lease is required with the Crown Estate and Able felt as this will be expensive and in addition to the initial cost there will be an annual charge, they do not wish to sign it until there is more certainty that the quay will indeed be developed. What is proposed is a 150-year lease, and NELDB will then hold an underlease. However, if the proposed AMEP does not progress, it was suggested that NELDB will need to enter a direct lease with the Crown Estate. This was news.
- The commuted sum agreement between Able UK Ltd & NELDB. It is clear that the provisional annual maintenance costs calculated by the Board's officers excluding electricity [which based on an average of 150 pumped hours per annum over 60 years, still needs to be added when we have more information about the pumps to be installed], will be subject to much further discussion. The Board is using the pumping station Operating Maintenance regime signed off between Able UK and the EA, so costs should be a matter of calculation rather than negotiation.

- Since at least June 2020 the Board has been seeking an assurance in writing that the Board's reasonable legal and engineering advice costs will be met by Able UK, so that the Board can be clear what standards of design and construction it is adopting for future maintenance of the pumping station and associated channels. Despite an initial agreement to meet £10k costs for design check independent advice from Stantec, no further agreement has been provided that the Board's costs will be underwritten by Able UK. Therefore, Able UK Ltd have been advised that whilst the Board is entirely supportive of the proposed new pumping station and wishes to see it in situ as the foundation for the future development of the area concerned and to enable economic prosperity, the Board cannot in all reasonableness incur costs and deploy limited officer time on this scheme until there is agreement to underwrite reasonable costs.

The Board's current position is that it wishes to support the pumping station development and it has previously agreed to adopt the finished pumping station on receipt of an appropriate commuted sum.

East Halton Railway Culvert scheme

This scheme to replace a discussed railway culvert at East Halton had been delayed due to Covid-19 by Amco-Giffen. Works started 21.09.20 and have been completed, with the adjacent landowner reporting an immediate drop in water levels of 8-10inches. The scheme cost was circa £12k.

Barton Drain New Cut

It was reported at the September Board meeting that the Board's contractor E Carnaby & Son had completed the new stretch of drain, and improvement scheme following the flood problems in the area during the wet autumn 2019, and the Board agreed to adopt and schedule it for maintenance. For completeness, both North Lincolnshire Council and Wren Kitchens have each now paid their £12k contributions, the Board therefore being fully reimbursed for the scheme cost.

The Chief Executive's report was received and noted.

11. External Auditor's Notice of Closure on the AGAR 2019/20

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance.

The Annual Return 2019/20 was agreed at the Board meeting on 23rd June 2020, subsequently published on the Board's website for public inspection and was despatched to the External Auditor on 02nd July 2020. The public inspection period was from 06th July until 14th August 2020.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, the Board had until 31st July 2020 to submit its Annual Return 2019/20 (normally 30th June) and the External Auditor has a statutory deadline of 30th September (extended to 30th November for 2020 only) to complete their external audit and publish the formal Completion of Audit Certificate (Section 3 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)). This was issued on 23rd September 2020 and received on 24th September 2020.

Part 2 of section 3 of the AGAR has been completed as follows: 'On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

Under the section 'Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority' they have reported 'None'.

This therefore completes the External Audit for 2019/20 and this Board, along with the other 3 Boards in the Witham & Humber group, have all received the same Audit opinion so no issues to report to the Board.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was issued on 28th September and has been displayed at the Board's depot, on the Board's website and at Witham House.

Members noted the External Audit Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Return 2019/20.

12. Schedule of Expenditure for the period 01.09.20 to 31.10.20.

The schedule of expenditure for the two months ended 31st October 2020 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance & Governance. The schedule was of invoices paid in the period and therefore some expenditure incurred in the two months period was excluded.

Items highlighted to or by members included:

- Item 46 £24,130.16 (net) to Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd for Wren Kitchens: Excavate new watercourse & install new culverts. Cllr D Wells asked if this should be recharged as none was showing and it was confirmed that these works would indeed be recharged.
- Items 52 & 53 £45.00 and £45.00 (net) to LCS IT Solutions for renewal of domain name northeastlindsey-idb.org.uk. It was confirmed that this was for security reasons, the domain name was not used but the purchase of it prevented anyone else using it.
- Item 60 £1,600 (net) to PKF Littlejohn for external audit fees – specifically the Return for the year ended 31.03.20.
- Item 62 £4,922.70 (net) to Stantec UK Ltd for works at Able UK Marine Park Killingholme Marshes, this was subject to recharge to Able UK.

Members noted the schedule of expenditure incurred for the two months 01st September to 31st October 2020, which totalled £209,457.56 gross or £176,392.54 net of £33,065.02 VAT. Recharges to other bodies during this period totalled £28,139.84.

13. Summary Financial Performance Report to 31st October 2020, month 7 of 2020/21.

The Financial Performance Report for the first 7 months of 2020/21 to 31st October 2020, had been circulated with the agenda. The Director of Finance and Governance presented the position, summarised as:

	1		2		3		4
	2020/21 Estimate		Profiled Budget		Actual		Variance
	£		£		£		£
Income	(658,310)		(648,672)		(733,376)		(84,704)
Board & General Admin	16,650		7,648		4,954		(2,694)
One Off Schemes	0		0		21,444		21,444
Conservation	2,500		1,317		579		(738)
Depot	8,250		4,909		4,831		(78)
Drains	142,420		66,564		60,559		(6,005)
Pumping Stations	74,450		20,491		10,117		(10,374)
Staffing & Joint Admin	96,410		48,570		51,528		2,958
Consents & Enforcement	0		0		0		0
Engineers & Works Supervisor	155,000		83,841		84,586		745
PWLB	0		0		0		0
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	0		0		0		0
Rechargeable Works	0		0		63,367		63,367
EA Precept	162,630		81,315		80,510		(806)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)							0
Wages & Plant Holding Account							0
(Surplus)/Deficit	0		(334,017)		(350,901)		(16,884)

The Board was anticipating a 31.10.20 budget surplus of (£334,017) and the actual budget surplus was (£350,901), a positive variance of (£16,884).

On income, Special Levy payments by the 3 councils (NELC, NLC and WLDC) had been received (£572k) for the full year. Drainage Rates invoices for 2020/21 had been posted out in April 2020. The collection rate for drainage rates income as of 31st October 2020 was 93.1% (compared with 87.1% for the same point in 2019/20). First reminders had been posted on 18th August 2020 and the final reminders posted 06th October 2020. A court date for non-payment would not be going ahead, as the amount due was so small and due to the current Covid lockdown restrictions meant it would be highly unlikely that Court would sit. All outstanding amounts would be rolled forward to the next year's accounts.

Also, on income, Highland Water claims had been submitted the EA for the 2019/20 actual claim with a further balance of (£149,955) due and for 2020/21 Estimate (£68,000). 80% of the estimated claim for 2020/21 (£54,400) was paid in August 2020 along with the balance for 2019/20 being (£14,955).

For Rechargeable Works, a new cut drain had been completed at Barton Upon Humber, works undertaken by the Board's contractor at a cost of £24k. This was recharged to Wren Kitchens and North Lincs Council on a 50/50 basis. (£6k) had been recharged to Able UK for the recovery of costs incurred in connection with the proposed new pumping station at Killingholme Marshes.

The bank balances as of 31st October 2020 were set out as follows:

Barclays Bank plc

Payments Account	£ 9,038.95
Receipts Account	£ 36,914.00
General Deposit Account	£ 435,000.00
Developer Contributions Account	£ 131,952.49
Nationwide Instant Access (Dev Cont's)	£ 152,104.37
Total	<u>£ 765,009.81</u>

Members noted the financial performance report for the seven months of 2020/21 from 01st April to 31st October 2020.

14. Health and Safety Update.

A report prepared by the Operations Manager had been circulated with the agenda.

Members were advised that since the last report Officers were still dealing with the new regulations surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Cope, the external Health and Safety provider had completed their annual Review at 3 of the 4 Witham & Humber Boards and advised of the need to guard all diesel pumping station engines with modern guards. Quotes would be obtained. They had also reviewed and updated some generic risk assessments.

No accidents or near misses had been recorded since the last report.

The planned Zoom Health and Safety Meeting in October did not happen due to one staff representative isolating and holidays. This would be rescheduled at the earliest convenience.

The company fitting the Cab Handrails had yet to complete the task due to shutting down the factory and furloughing staff. Although now reopened on reduced staffing levels the order was running at a delay.

Members supported in principle the need for external health and safety advice, as a matter of good practice. Cope would be asked to provide a quotation, to be available for the January 2021 meeting.

Members received, discussed and noted the Health and Safety update.

15. Environment Update

A report by the Environment and GIS Technician, Fiona Scott, was circulated with the agenda. It was introduced by the Engineering Services Officer.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there were no official owl box checks undertaken by the Wildlife and Conservation Partnership this year. However, Darren Scott, Works Supervisor, had checked the boxes and recorded his results.

Mawmbridge PS wildflower meadow was successful this year and has been topped up with seed in preparation for the summer, and the bank adjacent to the pumping station has also been planted with wildflower seed. A small meadow was also planted at Rosper Road Pits and some species had grown through, such as cornflower

(*Centaurea cyanus*) and common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) before being topped in late summer. A wetland meadow was planted at the south of the Rosper Road site in early March 2020 during warmer weather. Species in this mix include 17 different wildflowers that cope well on wetlands areas including Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Lesser Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

The Rosper Road Pits site remains an important site for NELDB. The land adjacent, owned by the Environment Agency, is part of an upcoming 'Humber Habitat Project' and is just one of the sites included within the project. The Board's officers had been assured that, whilst there have been great delays in implementing the project, it is still ongoing and that the delays have been due to complex legal issues regarding another area of land. The EA have stated that the main scope for the land use being for Special Protected Area (SPA) compensatory habitat with the Agency estimating that they may receive up to £40,000 to develop their land into a project, under their 'Outcome Measure 4' – statutory environmental obligations met through flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Bird monitoring continued at Rosper Road Pits. The site is home to a variety of wetland birds including UK Conservation Red (globally threatened) species: Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and Black Tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*). Numerous black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) and swift (*Apus apus*) have also been noted. The islands at Rosper Road were topped up with silt from the pools in February 2020 to provide improved breeding spots for our wetland bird species.

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) have hired a new Partnership Manager – Charlotte Palmer. A Board officer has been in contact with Charlotte and has sent over some materials explaining more about IDBs and offered to show her some environmentally important sites within the Board areas.

COVID allowing, the Board will be hosting a Year 2 Geography student placement from February to June 2021. Students who have shown in interest in a placement with the Boards will be interviewed by a Board officer (likely via Zoom or Microsoft Teams) and the best candidate will be selected. The placement will introduce the student to Internal Drainage Boards and what they do, as well as showing the student the environment side of IDBs and actions they take to conserve and enhance the environment.

Pleasingly, after great delay, ADA will be officially releasing their updated Biodiversity Action Plan template to be in line with various legislation and policy including, but not limited to, the Environment Bill (Act) 2020, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the 25 Year Environment Plan and Water Framework Directive.

The Board's Environment and GIS Technician will be undertaking Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) training with the British Trust for Ornithology online. These skills will be applied working in wetland areas.

Members received and noted the Environment update.

16. Water Vole Policy

A paper prepared by the Environment & GIS Technician, Fiona Scott, had been circulated with the agenda and was introduced by the Engineering Services Officer.

This policy intended to protect and enhance the water vole habitats and population associated with the 4 Witham & Humber Boards' land and the drainage channels in the North East Lindsey Internal Drainage Board area.

Updates to the policy were as follows:

- The addition of 'The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook' as guidance for the Boards. This handbook is very well used by those in environmental vocations (ecologists, environmental managers, etc) and is endorsed by the UK Water Vole Steering Group. A PDF copy of the handbook is held by the Board Environment and GIS Technician.
- The addition of encouraging Board staff to report water vole activity via their species recording app 'iRecord', data of which is sent to Lincolnshire Records Centre (part of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership).
- Inclusion of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 when undertaking all works, ensuring that all works have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Members were content to AGREE the updated policy.

17. Director of Operations & Engineering Services' Report.

The Operations and Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Operations Manager and Engineering Services Officer:

Following an early start to annual summer maintenance programmes on Upper Witham, Witham First and Witham Third Boards and a normal start date of mid-July on North East Lindsey, all Boards were progressing well.

North East Lindsey's contractors, Eric Carnaby & Son Ltd were progressing well with the summer programme and were on target to be finished with machine and hand work by mid-December. PSCA work was up to date with just a few days' work left to complete this year's contract.

Killingholme Marshes PS.

Following the discussion at the September Board meeting an email was sent to Able UK Ltd. (AUL) stating the Board's position as set out in that report and asking for them provide assurance that they will meet the reasonable due diligence work costs to be necessarily incurred by the Board. To date no assurance has been received. However, officers (Jane Froggatt and Guy Hird) had attended a further meeting on 22.10.20 at which AUL explained there had been other issues to be resolved before any work on the pumping station can commence. Work was due to start on 28th September 2020. To date work has not started. The only thing that has happened is the coastal footpath has been temporarily diverted.

Middle Drain Pumping Station

As per the last report to the Board in September, conditions at the site remain unchanged. Despite the installation of the new flap-valve serving the gravity outfall at this site in late October, it has been necessary to continue with the operation of the pumps at this site. Whilst the gravity outfall was dammed-off, silt accumulated within the outfall structure. This accumulated material is yet to be removed by the EA. Officers continue to seek a programme for the removal of the obstruction to the gravity outfall.

The Environment Agency has reimbursed the Board for the cost of the additional pumping required caused by the obstructed outfall and an order for the recovery of future additional costs which will be incurred until this issue is addressed by the EA.

Immingham Pumping Station

Immingham pump had been away for repair to Perry Pumps in Lincoln and was reinstated in the week commencing 02/11/20 and is pleasingly now fully operational.

East Halton Skitter Branch No.2

This capital scheme [circa £12k] at the old railway culvert has been completed by AmcoGriffen, and as a result it has dropped the water level on the upstream side of the disused railway considerably.

Ground Water Flooding November 2019

Following the events of November 2019 when flooding was experienced as a result of excess ground water flows in the Falklands Way area of Barton, a multi-agency group has met to discuss improvements in the operational response to future incidents. Meetings are being held involving representatives from the Board, North Lincolnshire Council, EA, Humber Emergency planning Wren Kitchens and their nominated Panel Engineer.

Whilst the capacity of the attenuation facility means that it does not meet the threshold requiring it, under the Reservoir Act 1975, Wren Kitchens Ltd. have created an Onsite Plan for the operation of their facility. This plan will set out how they will maintain and operate the facility, consider all risks associated with its operation and full contact details of all parties who need to be advised in a high flow event.

The creation of an 'off site' plan was also discussed, and this would include the setting of various trigger thresholds for alarms and warnings to be issued. The current expansion of the Wren Kitchens site will have no adverse effect upon the local drainage system or increase the likelihood of flooding of this nature in the area.

A second meeting was held on 17th September 2020, discussion included the proposed Alert/Warning system using the EA bore hole monitoring sites.

Environment Agency.

Stallingborough 3 sea defence improvements - NE Lindsey IDB liaison (ND-5362-2020-ASS)

The EA is advancing the development of the scheme to improve the tidal defences and outfalls along the frontage from Middle Drain to New Cut Drain at Pyewipe. The Outline Business Case was approved in July 2020. One aspect of this scheme is considering how best to sustain the conveyance of Oldfleet Drain. Furthermore, they are also particularly looking at options to improve the defences and outfall at Mawmbridge Drain.

This could potentially have an impact upon Middle Drain pumped catchment, Mawmbridge pumped catchment and Oldfleet Drain. Guy Hird, Engineering Services Officer, would pick this item up to investigate further and report back to the next Board meeting in January 2021.

Officers had been invited to a meeting to discuss the current systems and operations of the Board / EA and how they interact.

North Killingholme Outfall and Habrough Marsh Drain Outfall (ND-5364-2020-DRA)

Contractors for EA had been in contact to undertake survey and inspections of the two outfalls with a potential for them to be refurbished/replaced.

Members noted the report.

18. Engineering Services Report.

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

There were no issues to highlight to members on this occasion.

Members received and noted the report.

19. Consents and Enforcements Report.

A report had been prepared by the Consents and Enforcements Officers, circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Engineering Services Officer.

Byelaw Consent Applications

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details
ND-5293-2020-CON	Drain 4C Great Coates	Sir Richard Sutton Ltd	Install access culvert

Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – District
None received.

Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – Extended Area
The Board acts as Agent for Lincolnshire County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority
None received.

Enforcement Issues – District

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
ND-5207-2020-ENF	Land adj Brocklesby Ave, Immingham	Encroachment of access strip adj to Habrough Marsh Drain Branch 1 with a fence	Property owner had agreed to move the fence back to the original line, but he has now completed the fence encroaching on the Board's land. Further action will be required either take action to move the fence or accept the fence on this line or reserve the right to take action in the future.

Enforcement Issues – Extended District

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
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NE-5310-2020-ENF	Forge House, Cuxwold Rd, Swallow LN7 6DJ	Blocked culvert (suspected) causing flooding to his property and his neighbour's property	Case has been investigated and no enforcement action is required. Case closed 23-9-20
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Members received and NOTED the report on consents and enforcement cases.

20. Immingham Motorcycle Project on Land off King's Road, Immingham.

A report prepared by the Environment & GIS Technician had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Chief Executive.

The Board is the owner of a parcel of land south west of Kings Road, Immingham (TA195146), approximately 4.8 acres (1.94 ha). This land was purchased by the Board from Brocklesby Estates in September 1963 for £500 (approximately £10,830 in present terms) for the purposes of building a pumping station. This was built shortly after purchase and demolished in 1997 as it was no longer required. The land was unused until June 2003 when the Board gave permission for Immingham Town Council, through a lease with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), for the Immingham Motorcycle Project 'IMP', a project aimed at tackling vehicular anti-social behaviour. The scheme was considered successful at reducing the behaviour, however reductions in central and local authority funding meant that the project ceased in 2015.

At the start of 2019, Steven Lynn, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for NELC, registered interest with the Board to restart IMP due to its previous successes. NELC confirmed that it had no interest in continuing the lease for the site and would be happy to surrender the lease back to the Board, so that another can be drawn up between the Board and Immingham Town Council.

At the May 2019 Board meeting, the Board was presented with three options for how to continue with the land:

1. The Board declares the land surplus to requirements and sells at market value.
2. The Board declares the land surplus to requirements and sells to a known bidder.
3. The Board does not declare the land surplus to requirements and allow the proposed project scheme to take place, perhaps including an environmental element.

The Board had decided to not declare the land surplus to requirements at that point and to allow Immingham Town Council time to restart the motorcycle project, applying for grant funding to do so. But the Board wished to see the project started in a reasonable time period of one year.

Progress was slow, due to issues with NELC surrendering the lease. In February 2020, a site meeting was held with members from Immingham Town Council, the Auto-Cycle Union (ACU) and one of the Board's officers. The outcome of the meeting was positive, with all present keen to see progress within the next few months. The Board's officer had requested that some progress be made available by April 2020 so that this can be presented in the end of year Board papers. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this progress has halted.

Immingham Town Council was keen to push the project forward, however, as members had initially stated that they would prefer project completion to be within a year of the initial

decision, members were asked to review their original decision given the amount of time that had passed.

Brocklesby Estate had expressed an interest in purchasing the land from the Board, offering the sum of £15,000 in a formal offer submission on 04.06.20. If the land is sold to either Brocklesby Estate or another party, and the land is valued as suitable for development and subsequently developed within a certain number of years, the Board may wish to include a 'claw-back clause' with the agreement that it would receive a percentage of the value.

At the September Board meeting Members AGREED that sufficient time had been given to ITC / NELC to establish the scheme, but due to Covid-19 to ascertain with some certainty whether the project was likely to get the necessary funding to proceed. It was further AGREED to leave the matter of potential declaration of land surplus to requirements and a subsequent land sale until at least next Spring, taking no further action. Should any further offer for the land or information be received it will be considered at the May Board Meeting. An update would therefore only be provided on the potential Immingham Motorcycle Project, in due course.

21. Any other Business.

Cllr Peter Clark informed the meeting, for their information only, a meeting between North Lincolnshire Council and Ferry Ward members had taken place regarding the crater at Midby Drain. The outcome of this meeting was that works were due to start on 23rd November 2020 and would take 1-2 weeks to complete.

Cllr David Wells asked Officers present if they were aware that National Grid were pulling out at Goxhill. The Operations Manager, Mr Ian Coupland, advised that he was not and would therefore take the action away to investigate what, if any, assets the Board had in this specific area.

There were no further items of business and the meeting closed at 16:00.

22. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Tuesday, 19th January 2021, with the format and venue to be confirmed. It will commence at 2.00pm.

..... Chairman..... Date

NELB BM 10.11.20