

## **WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

**Minutes of the one hundred and twelfth meeting of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board, held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 via video conference at 09.30am.**

### **Present:**

Cllr. T. Ashton  
Cllr. I. Fleetwood  
Mr. R. P. Hairsine  
Cllr. G. Hewson  
Mr. P. R. Hoyes (Chairman)  
Mr. D. Jackson  
Cllr. T. Kemp  
Cllr. P.J. Vaughan  
Mr. R. J. Weightman  
Mr. T. Williams

### **In attendance:**

Mr Ian Coupland	Operations Manager
Miss Jayne Flower	Executive Assistant
Mrs Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
Mr. Matt Harrison	Senior Commissioning Officer, LCC
Mr. Guy Hird	Engineering Services Officer
Mr Steve Larter	Director of Finance and Governance

### **2813 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R. Armstrong, Cllr. S. Avison, Mr. J. Boyall, Mr. B. Charlesworth, Mr I M Clark, Mr S Crane, Cllr. S. England, Mr R Garner, Cllr W Gray, Cllr C Grimble, Cllr W Grover, Ms. J. Holland, Mr. D. C Hoyes MBE, Mr J Huthwaite, Cllr Mrs F M Martin MBE, Mr S Matthews, Mr I R Parker and Mr. M. I. Thomas (Vice Chairman).

### **2814 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.

### **2815 Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, the second Board meeting held via videoconference. Members were thanked for their continued support and understanding in this highly unusual period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A welcome was extended to Ian Coupland, Operations Manager for the four Witham & Humber Boards. Ian was attending the Board for his first meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Matt Harrison, Senior Commissioning Officer for Flood Risk at Lincolnshire County Council, who had kindly agreed to present to the Board the new joint Strategy which all flood risk management authorities in Lincolnshire had been involved in developing and which LCC approved in February 2020. With members' support it was agreed to bring this item forward to follow immediately after the minutes of meetings.

The Chairman advised members of the ill-health of Martin Shilling, Director of Operations and Engineering. Martin had attended an Upper Witham IDB site meeting on Thursday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> September. Unfortunately, Martin felt unwell whilst driving home and was admitted to Lincoln County Hospital where a heart attack was confirmed, and he had a surgical procedure the same day. Although it was pleasing to report that Martin was feeling a little better and he had now been discharged home, it was anticipated that he would be away from work for at least the next month. Members joined the Chairman in sending good wishes and in wishing Martin a full and speedy recovery.

### **2816 Minutes of the Board Meeting, 30.06.20.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

##### **2816.1 Plant & Machinery (minute 2798.2 refers).**

It was noted that following discussion last time about the plant and machinery programme, an update was on today's agenda. However, it was confirmed that the new Volvo long-reach EC220ELR excavator had been delivered to the Board at a net cost of £154,150. This was now in use during the summer weed cutting season. The older long-reach Volvo it replaced had, with the Board's approval, been retained and was in use too, enabling the Board to fulfil the additional PSCA works on main river which the EA had commissioned in 2020/21, particularly on the Barlings and the Bain.

##### **2816.2 Upper Witham New Depot & Joint IDB Office Scheme – Taylor Pearson update (minute 2798.4 refers).**

An update was provided on the endeavours to complete the new UW depot and joint office scheme, given the main contractor Taylor Pearson [Construction] Ltd had entered administration on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. As detailed at the previous meeting, contractual items outstanding were:

- Tarmac Entrance Bell Mouth
- Painting to workshop floor
- Workshop area heating system
- White Lining to carpark & Health & Safety markings
- Various snagging list items

On 21st May 2020, JW Butler and AJ Nichols of Redman Nichols Butler were appointed joint administrators for TPCL.

The assets of TPCL were auctioned online on Monday, 15th June 2020. Officers continued to liaise with the Administrators to see whether the contract would be concluded. If not, the monies not yet paid to TPCL would be utilised to complete any necessary outstanding works.

The bulk of the contractual works had been completed and there is a further £38k due to be paid to TPCL for outstanding works yet to be completed under the contract and retention monies are being held at 2.5%. There is a further £2.5k due to TPCL for acting as Principal Designer. The payment of these monies will only be due if the administrators agree TPCL is able to complete the contract. Members will be updated on the scheme progress and conclusion.

## **2817 Minutes of the Board's Standing Committee meeting, 08.09.20.**

The Minutes of the Board's Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 08<sup>th</sup> September 2020 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

### *MATTERS ARISING:*

There were no matter arising, all being covered by the agenda. Recommendations to the Board were noted.

## **2818 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting, 20.07.20**

The Minutes of the Joint Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

### *MATTERS ARISING:*

#### 2818.1 Insurance Renewals for the four Boards.

The Boards undertook a market test for their insurance arrangements ahead of the 2018/19 renewals and established a framework contract which is available to all IDBs nationally. This framework is hosted by Witham Third DIDB on behalf of the Witham & Humber group of Boards.

The OJEU compliant procurement exercise was undertaken by The Risk Factor Limited on behalf of and at no cost to the Boards. The process undertaken also ensured compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The framework contract means that any IDB in the country can access their insurance requirements without having to undertake a separate invitation to tender and this is compliant with public sector procurement regulations. The main insurances will be held by Fiducia (Travelers & Lloyds of London) and Zurich Municipal Insurance, all of which are large insurance providers in the public sector. The motor cover was transferred from LV to Allianz in 2019, who the Boards were previously with, due to the takeover of LV by Allianz earlier in the year. This year 2020/21, due to increases proposed by Allianz, the motor cover has been placed with Unicorn Underwriting for Witham First and Witham Third DIDBs (it remains with Allianz for UW).

Work was ongoing to ensure the Boards had relevant cost-effective insurance cover in place, especially in areas such as Cyber cover where a combined policy had been put in place to cover the 4 Boards. Furthermore, the value of the risks has also changed. For example, the value of plant and equipment has increased mainly due to recent replacement of excavators, and the turnover of the 4 Boards has increased with PSCA income.

Through undertaking this procurement exercise significant savings were made for the Boards of £25k in the first year 2018/19.

However, due to significant claims on Witham Third (3 claims approaching £200k) during 2019, the renewal for the Board was delayed in order to negotiate the cover and the cost of premiums. After much discussion and negotiation, the cover and premium had been agreed.

The basis of the renewals considered key factors for the Boards, including turnover, number and cost of employees, asset values, plant and machinery values, etc. and was set out as follows:

Policy Type	2017 Renewal Premium	2018 Renewal Premium	2019 Renewal Premium	2020 Renewal Premium
	£	£	£	£
Business Combined	12,245.87	13,226.66		
Professional Indemnity	1,562.04	752.91	12,563.56	14,169.80
Management Liability	674.50			
Contractors Combined	n/a	Inc Business Combined	4,326.32	10,068.80
Fidelity Guarantee	n/a	337.12	179.20	337.12
Loss Recovery	409.92	n/a	n/a	n/a
Engineering Inspection	3,537.85	2,945.00	4,123.57	5,159.35
Engineering Insurance	468.39	295.26	336.00	7,140.00
Personal Accident	359.49	929.60	929.60	929.60
Motor Fleet	8,693.70	7,170.80	8,830.80	11,928.00
Motor legal expenses	215.60			
Commercial Legal expenses	112.00	508.48	508.48	508.48
Cyber Liability	1,058.00	672.00	672.00	840.00
<b>Revised total</b>	<b>29,337.36</b>	<b>26,837.83</b>	<b>32,469.53</b>	<b>51,081.15</b>

Due to the significant level of claims experienced by the Board during 2019/20, a detailed inspection had been taken of the renewal terms. The main areas of increase were in relation to:

- Business Combined policy. This increased due to 36% increase in turnover, mainly due to additional PSCA income and increase in number of employees and corresponding staffing costs.
- Contractors Combined policy. This covers the large items of plant (excavators, tractors, flails, etc). The value of the sums insured had not increased much, as it did not at renewal on include the new excavator [Volvo LR excavator delivered 31.07.20]. However, the rating for these items has also increased significantly from circa 5p/£1 to circa 11p/£1.
- Engineering Inspection policy. The cost per item/inspection has not increased, therefore this increase is due to the volume of items requiring inspection.
- Engineering policy. Cover had also significantly increased due to the Underwriters now being more aware of what they are insuring. The cover moved from a notional blanket policy to an individual premises based policy, based on £425 IPT (12%), so £476 per premises (15 premises in total within the Board). However, if no claims are experienced on this policy during the year, a 15% rebate will be given at the end of the year (£1,071). A £5,000 excess now applies to any claims on this policy.
- Motor Policy. This was moved from Allianz, who were wanting a greater increase in premium costs, to Unicorn Underwriters who have provided more financially advantageous terms.

W3	Comprehensive Vehicles		Third Party		Net	IPT (12%)	Total
Allianz	15	£ 770	9	£ 100	£ 12,450	£ 1,494	£ 13,944
Unicorn	15	£ 650	9	£ 100	£ 10,650	£ 1,278	£ 11,928

It was noted that the 2017 baseline comparison would have increased annually for the increases in sums insured, in the value of plant and equipment owned, numbers of staff employed, and annual turnover of the Boards. If, say, a notional

but not unrealistic 5% annual increase was added to this baseline, then cumulative savings of £57k have been achieved over the last 3 years.

The first 3 years of the framework expires at the end of 2020/21. Therefore, the Boards have the option of market testing ahead of next year's renewals or extending the existing arrangements for a further 2 years. This latest round of negotiations has highlighted a number of risk areas that may require further discussion and agreement with underwriters to ensure the IDBs have the correct cover at the most cost effective price. The Boards may also want to self-insure more items/take bigger excess levels so that the insurance is covering the major risks, with day to day risks funded directly. This will be subject to further discussion over the coming months.

Members noted the position on insurances renewals and the increases in July 2020. It was also noted that following the rainfall events of 2019 this had become an issue more generally in IDBs and ADA had been made aware of the insurance issues for all IDBs.

## 2818.2 Policies Handbook (minute 12 refers)

JSC members had been briefed on the range of policies and procedures which would form the 'Staff Handbook of Policies', available for all to access and use via the Boards' websites. Members had been asked to approve this for onwards dissemination and training of staff.

The Boards have many existing policies approved by each Board, and these plus the new policies will be incorporated within the Staff Handbook, with the intention of there being one clear reference point for all the policies. It is good employment practice to have such.

The need for some of the new policies arises from the simplification of the ADA Lincolnshire White Book of Terms & Conditions, which in effect has the impact of delegating to individual Boards the responsibility for local policies and procedures.

The 4 Boards' Internal Auditor, Chris Harris of TIAA, had flagged to all 4 Boards in his Audit Report 2019/20 that there is a need for policies to be available in one place, in the form of a Staff Handbook.

An email was sent to all JSC members with the proposed set of policies as attachments.

Sarah Walden, HR Consultant, had taken members through the different genre of policies, e.g. Family friendly policies (like adoption, special leave, paternity leave, parental leave & maternity support leave) and Health & Safety (like Lone Worker policy, manual handling) and business continuity (like Business continuity plan, computer laptop and tablet use policy, corporate information security policy, information policy).

JSC members had discussed the policies, particularly any areas which they felt still required development before Officers asked them to approve the raft of policies (rather than take all the policies to each of the 4 Boards). This was done under the auspices of the JSC being the forum designated by all 4 Boards as fulfilling the role of its Audit Committee.

Members noted that the JSC had approved the policies. These will form, collectively with existing approved policies, the 'Staff Handbook of Policies' for dissemination to staff with appropriate training and for uploading to the website.

## **2819 Chief Executive's Report.**

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

### **2819.1 Covid-19.**

Since Operatives returned to a wider range of work duties on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, with the national easing of lockdown arrangements, all 4 Boards were now well underway with the summer 2020 maintenance programme. Restrictions on the use of all 4 depots remain in place, with these being closed to visitors and the public unless by prior arrangement. Similarly, a policy of single vehicle cab use continues [which has caused some logistical issues this summer in moving vehicles and plant around]. All necessary PPE was being provided, including hand sanitiser gel, gloves, wipes and face masks. Risk assessments and method statements have been completed for generic operations and for specific one-off jobs.

Witham House office also remains closed to visitors and the public, unless by prior arrangement. Office based staff have continued to work from home since 24.03.20 but are using the office as necessary, booking the use of the office in advance to ensure a maximum of 4 people present at any one time. Site visits, e.g. for assessment of enforcement cases & consents, projects and schemes, continue with observance of safe social distancing. External meetings are continuing via videoconferencing, using Zoom and MS Teams, the 4 IDBs' partner organisations like the EA, LCC and District/ Unitary Councils having adopted similar working practices. The main office number 01522 697123 continues to be answered remotely during office hours, using the Unity phone App, and calls and messages are triaged to the appropriate person. Hard copy post received at Witham House is scanned and emailed to the relevant person. The priority is to ensure business continuity, whilst providing all staff with a safe system of work and compliance with national guidance. The Boards need to preserve the ability to respond to an emergency flood event, as and when this happens, and the working arrangements seek to minimise the risk of cross-infection and the impact on workforces, should any member of staff have Covid-19 symptoms. Working practices during the Covid-19 pandemic are reviewed weekly by the Management Team, via Zoom

### **2819.2 Review of Autumn 2019 Heavy Rainfall Events.**

Lincolnshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority [LLFA] for 3 of the IDBs co-ordinated a questionnaire seeking feedback as to what had worked well in the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Partnership and what lessons should be learned from the flood events. A multi-agency review of those findings was held on Wednesday, 09.09.20, involving the EA, LCC, District Councils, the IDBs, the NFU etc.

Several themes emerged as core issues around sharing information, communications, funding streams for emergency events. These are being written up by LCC's Matt Harrison following the review meeting.

### **2819.3 Staffing Issues.**

Joshua Hague started with Witham Third DIDB on Monday 27.07.20 in the role of Land Drainage Operative. Josh was appointed into the vacant peripatetic role, his contract being held by W3rd. Josh will work as required across W3rd, UW and W1st

to give greater flexibility and cross-cover as needed (with recharges between the Boards accordingly for his time).

Anthony Smalley also started with Witham Third DIDB on Monday 27.07.20 in the role of Land Drainage Operative. Tony will initially be predominantly on the Volvo long-reach excavator.

#### 2819.4 Plant and Machinery.

Witham Third's new Volvo long-reach EC220ELR excavator, part of the plant programme 2020/21, was delivered on Friday, 31.07.20 (net cost £154,150). The predecessor Volvo long-reach excavator has been retained as an additional resource in the fleet, given the large increase in PSCA works commissioned by the EA from Witham Third in 2020/21 (e.g. the River Bain and Barlings Eau).

#### 2819.5 Capital Schemes – Minting revetment works and Kirkstead Flood wall scheme.

The Board has continuing maintenance responsibility for a very responsive watercourse in Minting village, where the catchment is 7 square KMs. Residents reported storm damage to the timber supports in the watercourse and the need for replacement. The scheme was put out to invitations to tender, but the quotations received were high at just under £90,000. The Board had £30,000 in the 2019/20 budget for the scheme. An in-house design and in-house works are planned therefore for spring 2021, to potentially culvert the watercourse with a swale too which will take additional water at times of excess flow. In the meantime, an interim scheme was completed in July to replace the damaged timbers and make good.

The Board earmarked £75k for Kirkstead Flood Wall Scheme in reserves and the relining of the discharge pipe was completed last financial year. Following the easing of lockdown, the remaining element of the scheme to rebuild a 10m section of flood wall at the confluence of the River Witham & Mill Drain was due to start on site by C G Godfrey Ltd on 14.09.20. However, due to delays with faulty pipework, work was delayed and had just got underway.

#### 2819.6 Replacement Vehicles

Members were reminded that following a review of travel expenses costs for 3 of the 4 Boards in 2013, the decision was taken to lease a fleet of vans and 4x4 vehicles, both to make financial savings but also to give greater resilience in the fleet and to act as a recruitment aid. Following a procurement exercise, the contract to supply the vehicles was awarded to Essential Fleet Services (now Go Plant). The 5-year lease period on those 4x4 vehicles expires in November 2020 and on the vans it expires in January 2021. There are a few vehicles which are outside this renewal arrangement, because of new starters during the last few years, and NELDB's one 4x4 lease vehicle is under a separate arrangement. Quotations were obtained for both the purchase of replacement vehicles and the lease of new 4x4s and vans which were also benchmarked against the Crown Commercial Services' national framework. There were 2 potential suppliers with little between them, but on balance Management Team has agreed to place the contract for supply of vehicles with the existing provider, Go Plant largely on the grounds of local service arrangements in Lincoln, good experience with them over the last 5 years and during the Covid-19 pandemic if there were to be any vehicle supply problems we have the assurance that the existing vehicles would remain available until delivery of the replacements.

In total, there will be 12 replacement vans due in January 2021 and 7 4x4 vehicles in November 2020. The 7 4x4 vehicles will be allocated to Martin Shilling [W1st], Ian Coupland [W3rd], Richard Marshall [W1st], Lee Albans [UW] and the pump team in Adrian Skelton [W3rd] and Simon Horton [UW], Kevin Rossington [W1st]. Alan Jarman [W3rd] has a 2018 4x4 and Wayne Bourne [W3rd] has a 2019 4x4. The 3 Boards will also be purchasing 4 of the current 4x4s to replace the current depot trucks [UW, W1 and W3 x2]. The current depot trucks [UW, W1 and W3 x3] will be sold as seen.

In terms of financial costs, for W3 there is an additional £15k cost per annum, but this includes an extra vehicle for the new starter Operative. These costs are fixed for the next 5 years (so every 5 years there is a stepped cost) and this will be included in the 2021/22 Budgets. The purchased 4x4s will be circa £10k each (met by the Plant & Machinery Reserve), with sale receipts to offset this.

Members received and NOTED the Chief Executive's report and verbal update.

### **2820 External Auditors' Notice of Closure 201/20.**

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

The Annual Return 2019/20 [the AGAR] was agreed at the Board meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, subsequently published on the Board's website for public inspection and despatched to the External Auditor on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020. The public inspection period was from 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 until 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown, the Board had until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to submit its Annual Return 2019/20 (normally 30<sup>th</sup> June) and the External Auditor has until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (normally 30<sup>th</sup> September) to complete their work and publish their report.

The External Auditor has a statutory deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September (extended to 30<sup>th</sup> November for 2020 only) to complete their external audit and publish the formal Completion of Audit certificate. Usually, the Board has been in receipt of this by the September Board meeting. Unfortunately, the certificate had not yet been received with only minimal communication from the Auditor

Any issues arising from the External Audit should be reported to the Board and it was noted that to ensure closure on financial year 2019/20, an update will be provided to the November meeting.

### **2821 Risk Register.**

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

The four IDBs share a common Risk Management Policy, Risk Strategy and Risk Register, which was last approved at the September 2019 round of Board meetings.

The Risk Register attempts to capture the high-level risks the four Boards face. These are generic to all four Boards, with any specific risks to a particular Board highlighted.

Following the series of heavy rainfall events during Autumn 2019 and the impact this had on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 year end outturn positions, several risks have been reviewed. Also, with the significant impact of COVID-19 upon the 4 Boards' operations, several risks have been revised and some new risks and mitigation measures had been added.



The key measures that have been put in place to address the COVID-19 Pandemic were highlighted and summarised as:

- Initially from 24.03.20 Operatives worked alternate days undertaking pump runs, checking for blockages, bridges and culverts, etc.
- Operatives resumed duties from easing of lockdown on 18.05.20 and are now undertaking summer maintenance works whilst maintaining a single cab vehicle usage policy of '1 person 1 vehicle/item of plant'. No more than 1 Operative per vehicle including vans & 4x4s.
- Hand work outsourced to private contractor.
- Office staff working from home where possible. Staff set up with home working facilities (laptops, screens, etc). All ICT systems available from home.
- Access to the main office on a booking basis, accommodating a maximum 4 people at any time with procedures when entering/leaving the office.
- Virtual meetings held via Zoom. Key staff (e.g. Management Team) not meeting 'face to face'.
- PPE like Hand sanitiser, masks, gloves, wipes, etc, provided to all staff (Operatives and office staff).

The Risk Register is considered by the 4 Boards at least twice annually, usually in January ahead of agreeing the Budget for the following financial year and in May when the Annual Governance Statement is completed. However, as it was not reported in May 2020 it was being reported to encompass all the current risks and mitigation measures, including those relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following discussion, members APPROVED the Risk Register as at September 2020.

### **2822 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.04.20 to 31.08.20.**

The Schedule of Expenditure for the five months' period 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance. The schedule relates to those invoices paid in the period.

Gross expenditure totalled £1,059,629.27 or, net of £98,927.86 VAT, £960,680.77. Of this, £142,680.33 was recharged to other bodies.

Items highlighted to or raised by members included:

- Items 16 to 26: various payments to Beacon for the purchase of supplies for all Boards of PPE under Covid-19 regulations, which had been recharged to other Boards.
- Item 58: £3,374.00 (net) to Dormar Products for the purchase of equipment to facilitate Operatives working on-site straight from home under new Covid-19 regulations, recharged to other Boards as shared costs.
- Item 63: £19,650.00 (net) to Edgar Allen Mining Products Ltd for Southrey Pumping Station Rewind of No1 motor, which was subject to an insurance claim.
- Item 67: £52,577.00 (net) to the EA for the IDB Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Precept, being the first of two payments, which total £105,154.00 in 2020/21.
- Items 68 & 69: £5,350.00 and £62,750.00 (net) to Farol Limited for the John Deere Tractor OY18 FMG and Bomford Turbo Front / Rear Mower

- Items 159, 160 & 161: £4,597.92, £4,729.76 and £2,809.84 (net) to Mainstream Fisheries Ltd for outsourced EA PSCA hand works on the River Bain and River Waring. These works are recharged to the EA under the PSCA agreement.
- Item 165: £6,600 (net) to Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd for MRZT300B Mowing Bucket, extension set, spare knife and mowing head for the Volvo excavator.

Members received and NOTED the expenditure incurred in the five months from 01.04.20 to 31.08.20.

### **2823 Financial Performance Report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, month 5 of 2020/21.**

The Director of Finance & Governance presented the Financial Performance Report to 31.08.20, month 5 of 2020/21. This had been circulated with the agenda. The summary was:

	<b>2020/21 Estimate</b>	<b>Profiled Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	(1,257,517)	(749,166)	(752,252)	(3,086)
Board & General Admin	19,260	8,657	4,219	(4,438)
One Off Schemes	85,000	0	0	0
Conservation	2,000	563	265	(298)
Depot	31,280	25,632	16,557	(9,075)
Drains	557,309	232,447	233,649	1,202
Pumping Stations	216,730	83,682	175,246	91,564
Joint Admin/Witham House	144,615	100,446	113,754	13,308
Consents & Enforcement	14,388	16,171	10,330	(5,841)
Director of Operations/Engineers	99,678	49,332	53,750	4,418
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(75,000)	0	0	0
PWLB				0
Rechargeable Works	55,000	16,427	93,470	77,043
EA Precept	107,257	53,629	52,577	(1,052)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)				0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	12,702	(46,326)	(59,028)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(149,478)</b>	<b>(44,760)</b>	<b>104,718</b>

The Board was anticipating a 31<sup>st</sup> August budget profile surplus of [£149,478] whereas the actual budget surplus at month 5 2020/21 was [£44,760, a negative variance of £104,718. However, this actual position included £119k of reinstatement costs incurred at Stainfield Pumping Station [following its inundation by the breach of EA main river at Barlings Eau in November 2019], which was subject to an insurance claim and hopefully much would be recouped. Also, there was rechargeable works expenditure of £80k, being mainly PSCA works for the EA, which was yet to be reimbursed.

On income, Special Levies for the first half of the year had been received from all 3 Councils, the second tranche being due to the Board on 01.11.20.

Also, on income, Highland Water claims had been submitted to the EA for 2019/20 actual costs incurred a further balance of (£50,192) due and for the 2020/21 estimated claim (£201,000). 80% of the estimated claim for 2020/21 (£160,800) was paid in August 2020 along with the balance for 2019/20 actual (£50,192), so a total Highland Water income , received of [£210,992 ]with the balance adjusted for actual 2020/21 spend payable in September 2021.

Finally, on income, Drainage Rates income collected was £162,028.13 or 82.2% collection rate as at 31.08.20 [compared with a 80.8% collection rate 31.08.19]. After adjustments, this left £35,498.15 outstanding to the Board. However, since the report was written further drainage rates accounts had been paid giving a collection rate of 95.6% as at 21.09.20 and a balance of £9,021 income due to the Board.

On plant, the new Volvo EC220ELR long reach excavator had been delivered at a cost of £154,150 excluding VAT. The corresponding sale or trade in of the previous Volvo long reach excavator had been deferred, as agreed by the Board, as this has been retained to undertake additional PSCA works for the Board on behalf of the EA. A Herder weed basket has also been purchased for £6,600 to go on the new machine. At the last Board meeting, it was also reported that a second-hand John Deere 6155M tractor had been purchased at a cost of £62,750, fitted with a new Bomford Turbo Euro mower at a cost of £5,350. This is to negate the requirement to hire in a machine as we had done in previous years. For 2020/21 season, this would have been at least 20 weeks @ £625 hire cost per week, so £12,500 plus front flail hire costs.

On the Pumping Stations repair and maintenance budget heading, it was showing £110k costs incurred all of which relate to repair costs at Stainfield and Southrey Pumping Stations. Both works are subject to insurance claims (Stainfield for flooding during last winter and Southrey a motor fire).

Finally, the report set out bank balances and investments as at 31.08.20:

Natwest	£	287,693.75
Nationwide Instant Access	£	82,208.97
Nationwide 95 Day Notice	£	423,316.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b><u>793,219.60</u></b>

Members received and noted the financial performance report as at 31.08.20, month 5 of 2020/21.

### **2824 Write off of Drainage Rate Accounts**

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

The Board has a policy for writing off Drainage Rate demands under £2.50. The following 31 accounts totalling a value of £53.91 were outstanding as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, but are under £2.50 for 2020/21 and it is deemed uneconomical to raise invoices:

Account	Value £	Account	Value £
728	0.94	1303	2.36
740	1.42	1353	2.17
745	1.89	1378	2.55
822	2.36	1382	2.55
869	1.89	1385	1.89
903	2.36	1411	1.13
918	1.04	1455	1.6
943	0.94	1468	1.51
992	1.42	1474	2.45
1035	1.89	1475	0.85
1082	1.89	1494	0.57
1146	0.47	1501	0.94
1170	1.42	1517	1.79
1192	2.36	1523	2.17
1248	1.42	1559 -2018/19	1.52
1300	0.94	1559 -2019/20	1.54
		1559 -2020/21	1.6
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53.91</b>

In addition to these accounts, Account 1477 contains land now used as residential housing and industrial buildings that should have been included in the Special Levy calculations for the years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Unfortunately, we were not made aware of this until after the demands were run. We also use the Land Drainage Act 1991 guidance of refunding the current year, plus the one previous, meaning that in most case, two years' rates become due for 'write-off'. It was requested that the Board write off £517.38 for this account and these parcels will be transferred as at 31.12.20 to the 2021/2022 Special levy calculations.

Following consideration Members AGREED that £53.91 and £517.38, i.e. a total of £571.29 be written off by the Board, all drainage rates write-offs being a matter reserved to the Board.

## **2825 Health and Safety Report.**

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

Operatives continue dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic and the day to day issues this causes.

Members were reminded that on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Operatives returned to full-time days. They were provided with all the PPE required to carry out their duties safely, whilst still observing safe social distancing working practices and keeping vehicle use to single staff.

Office Staff continued working from home, wherever possible. Measures were in place to make the office accessible to a limited number of 4 staff at any one time, being managed by a booking system. The office was closed to members of the public and unauthorised visits, unless by prior arrangement. Arrangements and the risk assessments were reviewed weekly at the Management Team Meetings.

Cope, the external Health and Safety provider to the Boards, had completed their annual visit to Witham First IDB. Cope staff are booked to compete the Annual Review on 28<sup>th</sup> September at Witham House, meeting afterwards with the Operations Manager and Chief Executive.

Unfortunately, there was one accident to report but no near misses since the last meeting. The accident, which happened on Upper Witham IDB to a Pump Attendant, was a strain injury resulting in the person being off work for more than 7 days. This meant the incident became

reportable under RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences) regulations. The member of staff attended hospital and received advice for muscle strain. He is now pleasingly back at work completing his full range of duties and at present no action has been heard from the HSE.

The company fitting the cab hand rails to machine cabs retrospectively (all new machines come fitted with handrails) have yet to complete this task, due to shutting down the factory and furloughing their staff. They have reopened on reduced staffing levels and will resume this work as soon as they can. The Operations Manager was awaiting confirmation of an installation date.

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

### **2826 Environment Update**

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

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Wildlife and Conservation Partnership took the decision to limit their visits to areas they would usually check and did not check owl boxes in Witham Third District. In 1987, breeding barn owl numbers in the UK were at their lowest with only around 4,500 breeding pairs, having declined by 70% since 1932. Numbers have since tripled to an estimated 12,000 breeding pairs and their success is often attributed to an increase in nest boxes installed. Up to 80% of UK barn owls now nest in man-made boxes. The box camera at Southrey Pumping Station 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*) remains, however there were signs of cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), amongst others. The remaining dock and horseradish will continue to be spot treated and further wildflower seed plant in autumn 2020. It is planned to remove the shed at Southrey in autumn, as it has been subject to longstanding misuse by the general public using the adjacent Water Railway. Litter, dismantling of the adjacent bug hotel and dog waste bags are some of the noted issues. It is thought that removal is the best option to eliminate misuse, and the bare ground lends itself nicely to extend the current wildflower meadow.

There are continual sightings of the otter (*Lutra lutra*) in Stixwould 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.

The Environment and GIS Technician for the Board has gained Associate membership of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Membership of is achieved by providing sufficient evidence of professional competence.

Members received and noted the report.

### **2827 Plant Programme Update.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance, following discussion within Management Team.

The plant, vehicle, machinery and equipment replacement programmes are considered by the Board annually as part of the budget setting process for the subsequent financial year. It is important that when the programme is approved, the Board can demonstrate that it is affordable in terms of the initial purchase costs (resourced from the Plant Replacement Reserve) and the annual depreciation charges from its Revenue Budget.

The proposed replacement programme was included and showed the preceding financial year 2019/20 actual spend, the current financial year 2020/21 actual spend to date and/or budgeted spend, and the budgeted spend for the following six financial years from 2021/22 to 2026/27.

In recent years two main issues have arisen. Firstly, the initial cost of purchase is increasing, especially items that are manufactured abroad. This has been notable for example with wheeled excavators. This issue may or may not worsen after future trade deals have been agreed. As many firms increase prices from 01st January, the Plant Programme comes to the Board in September each year enabling orders to be placed by December.

Secondly, the lead in timescales from order placed to receipt of goods has also extended considerably with kit often arriving after the start of the weed cutting season. This can give operational issues if the old kit is traded in. Hence, it is prudent to place orders by December for delivery by 30th June.

The new long reach excavator has been purchased at a cost of £154,150 and the existing machine has been retained to undertake PSCA works bringing in additional income, as previously agreed by the Board. The associated weed basket has also been purchased

As reported to the last Board meeting, a business case was made to purchase a second-hand tractor at (£62,750) and associated front flail at (£5,350), rather than hiring a tractor.

The renewal of the lease vehicles in November 2020 for the 4x4s and January 2021 for the vans gives the opportunity to purchase one of the current lease vehicles as a replacement truck. The current Board owned truck (Isuzu Rodeo) can then be sold. This is an amendment to the current year's programme.

The current approved Plant Replacement Programme provided for a new tree clipper in 2021/22. However, Upper Witham IDB has submitted a price to the EA for some additional PSCA works during the winter on the River Till. To undertake this, they will need to 'hire' the old W3 long reach machine with tree clipper. This gives the opportunity to fund a new tree clipper early via this additional PSCA income that will passport through from UW. This purchase will only be made early if the price to the EA is accepted and the work is commissioned.

The proposed plant programme for 2021/22 had been amended to move the tree cutter forward to 2020/21 and to bring forward the replacement paddock flail purchase from 2022/23 to 2021/22. The existing paddock flail has done a lot of work since its purchase in 2015. It had been lifted for depreciation charges over 8 years, but realistically is now at the end of its useful life therefore there may be a small write off required depending upon actual trade in value.

The purchases and sales in the subsequent financial years 2022/23 to 2026/27 showed a smoothed programme of replacements, which is affordable to the Board.

The only changes were that values had been updated to reflect recent purchase values of similar items. To allow orders to be placed in good time, it was recommended that the future

programme be also approved, subject to the proviso that any changes required in either items to be purchased or budget allocated be referred to the Board for approval. An assessment had been carried out with regards the affordability of both the initial purchases (to be met from the Plant & Machinery Renewal Reserve) and the ongoing affordability of the depreciation charges to be made to the Revenue Account. It was confirmed that the initial purchase cost could be met from the Plant Renewal Fund based on this programme and values. It was also confirmed that the additional depreciation in the short to medium term will be an additional £18k in 2021/22 (due to the additional purchases in 2020/21) with no further increase required until 2026/27 based on the current programme and values.

Members were content to approve the Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme for 2020/21 as revised and for 2021/22.

Members further approved the Plant & Machinery Replacement Programme for the subsequent years 2022/23 to 2026/27, subject to the proviso that any changes required in either items to be purchased or budget allocated be referred to the Board for approval.

### **2828 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. Highlights included:

#### **Planned Maintenance Programmes**

The Summer Maintenance programme was commenced earlier than in previous years, on 18<sup>th</sup> May, for several reasons:

- To allow for the inclusion of slip reinstatement within the usual maintenance programme, where practicable.
- Restrictions caused by Covid-19 regulations will slow down our normal rate of work completion, and so an early start will reduce the risk of delays later in the year.
- To recover any locations or reaches of maintained watercourse missed during 2019 due to the poor ground conditions caused by the prolonged heavy rainfall events experienced during that season.

The earlier start to the programme required the written recording of visual inspections of reaches to be cut for the presents of ground nesting birds and other protected species. Each reach is walked by the driver immediately prior to the length being cut, to reduce the risk of damage to habitat and any nests that may be present. In some locations, the Environment & GIS Technician had also been involved.

#### **Stainfield Pumping Station**

Following the inundation of this station in November 2019, the following elements of the station had been fully refurbished:

- All 3 pumps have been repaired including the replacement of the top bearing by Perry's Pumps of Lincoln and refurbishment of the motor to pump no.3 by Axflow Ltd. of Huddersfield.
- The replacement of electrical connections to the penstock that controls flows into the syphon under the Barlings Eau (the syphon is the responsibility of the EA, but the penstock is operated and maintained by the Board).
- The replacement of electrical connections to the 2no. submersible pumps
- The replacement of electrical connections to the automated Weedscreen cleaner.
- The replacement of all electrical pump control and Weedscreen cleaner control gear.

The Board awaits written confirmation from the EA that they will not reimburse the Board for its costs associated with this work. The flooding of the station was caused by the failure of the Barlings Eau raised flood defences. Once this confirmation has been received then a claim will be submitted to the Board's insurers.

### **Southrey Pumping Station**

Repairs to the MCC were completed and the refurbished motor was recommissioned on 5<sup>th</sup> August. The motor was refurbished by Edgar Allen Mining Co. at a cost of £19,650. This work will be the subject of a claim to the Board's insurers.

### **Short Ferry Pumping Station**

The installation of the new MCC has been completed except for the commissioning of the telemetry unit. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May a major fault occurred in the operation of the MCC during the installation of new electrical connections. This resulted in the failure of the cleaner. Estimates for the repair or replacement of the trolley mechanism have been received and, after negotiations with Paktronic Ltd, the cost of this repair work will be covered by them. The work is valued at £16,500 - £17,500 and should be completed in the next few weeks.

### **Plant**

The new Volvo EC220ELR tracked excavator was delivered at the end of July at a cost of £154,150 [excluding VAT] and is part of the 2020/21 approved plant replacement programme. The Volvo long-reach it replaces has, by agreement, been maintained given the volume of PSCA works commissioned by the EA.

### **Gautby & Minting Beck, Minting**

The Beck runs through the village serving the top end of the Duckpool Catchwater catchment. As it passes between residential properties on Church Lane, it is served by timber revetment installed in the 1990s as part of a multi-agency scheme consisting of the Board, Parish Council, former National Rivers Authority and East Lindsey District Council. This timber revetment has now failed.

Tenders were sought to replace it on a 'like for like' basis and these were found to be in the vicinity of £90 - £110,000. The Board is considering and pricing an alternative scheme consisting of a pipe/swale combination that could be undertaken by Operatives in the spring. In the meantime, the Board's Operatives completed in July 2020 interim repairs to the existing timber structure to ensure an unobstructed flow of water.

### **Kirkstead Mill Beck Flood Wall**

A short reach of flood water protecting the right-hand embankment of the Beck, at its confluence with the River Witham, has failed. The reinforced concrete wall has slipped, causing a joint to fail and place the pumping station and neighbouring residential properties at increased risk from flooding. This failed length of wall shall be replaced by a pine of steel sheet piles topped with a concrete capping beam and faced to match the existing wall.

A contract to replace this section of wall has been awarded to CG Godfrey Ltd. of Spalding in the sum of £69,891 with the work designed and supervised by Siddle Grimley Hage Ltd of Lincoln [£5,350]. The work commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> September and should be completed within 4-6 weeks. The first part of the work to stabilise the wall was completed in 2018 with the lining of the discharge pipe from the old pumping station. This work ensured the integrity of the pipeline and continued support of the over lying flood wall.



## **Public Service Cooperation Agreement (PSCA)**

Confirmation of orders to begin work on the 2020/21 programme of PSCA work for the EA was received by the Boards on 13<sup>th</sup> May, including the cutting of embankment tops to ensure the safe operation of plant later in the year.

The total value of work estimated for Witham Third District IDB to undertake this year is £337,540, a considerable increase on last year.

The estimate includes the cost of supervision and administration of the work and a contingency sum of 10% to allow for compliance with any regulations relating to Covid-19. There is also a 10% sum included for the administration and supervision of the work by the Board's Operatives and Officers. All work is completed on a full cost recovery basis.

Much of the programme commissioned is like that in previous years, except the request for Witham Third to take on 2 large additional watercourses, the Barlings Eau and River Bain/Horncastle Canal. Both watercourses have been the cause of many complaints to the Board over many years. The EA has previously been denied access to these watercourses by residents. This was never pursued by the EA, but the Board must have continuous access if it is to complete the works satisfactorily. Simon Fisher of the NFU may well be able to assist in mediating, however residents have not been unreasonable with the Board's staff so it hopefully will be overcome without issue.

This work was being completed, in addition to the core maintenance programme, with the retention of its Volvo long reach excavator and the employment of a sub-contractor to undertake the hand work relating to these watercourses.

After the heavy rainfall event of 2019/ 2020, it was evident that the reimbursement of the Board's costs incurred providing mutual aid to the EA was problematic. It was suggested by the Board that a 'call down' type order was provided so that this could be used in future should a Board be requested to assist during an event. The 4 Boards have since received separate orders issued under the PSCA, with a maximum value each of £10,000. Any costs in excess of this value will need to be agreed separately.

### **Lower River Witham Strategy & Billingham System Reviews.**

Officers and Board members have attended several meetings relating to these EA led reviews. These reviews relate to two aspects of the lower River Witham system. The strategic review is tasked with looking at how the whole of the lower River Witham system is to be maintained and operated in future, whilst the Billingham system review is a much more local approach focusing on maintenance and the effects a system failure has on the adjacent Witham First District IDB system.

The EA are to issue a scoping document requesting prices for various elements of work from their framework consultant, Arup. Over the next 2 years the system is to be re-surveyed and the existing computer based hydraulic model is to be updated to reflect the current condition of the system. Arup have been appointed to undertake the strategy review and their work will include the management of the topographical survey work, model update, updating hydraulic information used within the modelling exercise, stakeholder engagement and development of the business case document by 2022.

The strategy, which was originally produced in the late 1990s and resulted in the rebuilding of many kilometres of raised earth embankments in the early 200's, is reviewed every 5 years.

This review will consider the existing preferred option of 'providing additional storage' and how the existing system effects the adjacent IDB pumped and gravity systems.

The review of the Billingham system catchment will take information generated by the topographic survey of the watercourses and consider the need for de-silting of the various channels. The current method and specification of annual maintenance will also be discussed along with the need for more enthusiastic maintenance of bushes and trees within the main river system. EA officers will hold site meetings with the local landowners who have experienced problems over the years within the Digby and Dorrington Fen areas, with officers from the Board and NFU assisting wherever possible.

Any future projects for capital work within the system will depend on a combination of both Defra Grant in Aid and partnership funding.

The importance of the defences in protecting the adjacent land has already been raised along with the need for a decision as to the long-term value, in the wider sense, of the adjacent land.

Members received and noted the Director of Operations and Engineering Services' report.

### **2829 Engineering Services Report.**

The Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Engineering Services Officer.

The following issue was highlighted to members:

#### **Change of use of land for the siting of 22no. modular homes for the over 55's. Land off Greenfield Road, Coningsby, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN4 4UF**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board area.

The Board's maintained **2058 – Pingle** drain is on the south east side of the site.

The Board **Strongly Objects** to the proposed development.

#### **Reason**

Infringement of the Board's 9m bylaw distance of a Board maintained watercourse which totally blocks access for the boards plant and machinery to carry out its essential routine maintenance on a board maintained watercourse. This will increase the risk of localised surface water flooding to the housing estate to the south and south east of the proposal.

A copy of the Board's bylaws can be found here:-

<http://witham3idb.gov.uk/policy-procedures/operational-and-environmental-policies-procedures/byelaws/>

**A dialogue has started with the developer.**

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

### **2830 Consents and Enforcements Report**

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

#### **Byelaw Consent Applications**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
TD-5237-2020-CON	B1399 Fulnetby / Claybridge and Torrington Beck	Lincolnshire County Council	Major roadside slip repair and road reconstruction	07-07-20

## 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

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
TE-5270-2020-CON	West Ashby	L A Sharpe Ltd	Reconnection of pond to R Waring	25-08-20
TE-5292-2020-CON	Nettleham Beck – in the village	Lincolnshire Rivers Trust	Placement of coir berms	

## Enforcement Issues – District

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
TD-4925-2019-ENF	44 Turnberry Drive, Woodhall Spa	Possible maintenance required	Case Closed 3-9-20
TD-5173-2020-ENF	Shop Lane Goulceby	Potential filling in of watercourse	No further contact Case Closed 3-9-20
TD-5193-2020-ENF	Woodenderby Lane, Haltham	Potential flooding	Monitoring
TD-5212-2020-ENF	Musgraves Orchard, Welton	Watercourse maintenance	No further contact Case Closed 3-9-20
TD-5265-2020-ENF	Main Road, Woodhall Spa LN10 5DT	Unconsented culverts	No action required apart from letter being sent Case Closed 3-9-20

## Enforcement Issues – Extended Area

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
TE-3981-2018-ENF	Bleasby, Market Rasen	Road flooding	No further contact Case Closed 3-9-20
TE-4921-2019-ENF	Bleasby, Market Rasen	Road flooding	No further contact Case Closed 3-9-20
TE-5033-2020-ENF	Lodge Lane, Nettleham	Possible maintenance to watercourse	Watercourse clear completed Case Closed 3-9-20
TE-5109-2020-ENF	Bucknall Road, Horsington	Possible blocked culvert	No further contact Case Closed 3-9-20
TE-5204-2020-ENF	Abbey Road opposite Carron Close, Bardney	Unconsented culverting of a watercourse with 100mm pipe	Letters sent and site meeting with interested parties. Agreed to remove some and apply for a Consent for are large pipe for part of it.
TE-5225-2020-ENF	West Torrington, near Wragby	Watercourse maintenance	Awaiting investigation and evidence

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

## **2831 Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050**

Matt Harrison, Senior Commissioning Officer for Flood Risk at LCC, gave a presentation to the meeting on the LLFRA Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050, as approved by Lincolnshire County Council in February 2020.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Lincolnshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is required to implement and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This must be consistent with the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for which the Environment Agency is responsible, and which is also currently being updated with a public consultation exercise having recently concluded.

Within this broad framework the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy responds to local needs and circumstances and develops local strategic priorities. The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 is a fully revised and updated version of the existing Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, approved by the Council in 2012/13. The new strategy builds on successful delivery of the key objectives set out in the earlier document. It takes a wider view, not only covering partners' collaborative strategic and operational approach to flood risk management, but also strategic management of water as a resource to support economic growth and to help secure long term resilience of water supply within a new national framework.

The strategy has been developed with key stakeholders and partners of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership which shaped a public consultation version of the strategy for Summer 2019.

In May 2019 approval was received from the Council's Executive to proceed to public consultation with the draft Strategy. A public consultation exercise was then undertaken from 23rd May to 19th July 2019, during which time six public drop-in sessions were made available across the county, staffed by various members of the flood risk partnership.

Alongside this an online questionnaire was available for respondents to complete. This was structured in such a way to try and determine awareness of flood risk and flood risk authorities in Lincolnshire, identify the top priorities and concerns when dealing with flood risk and to seek opinion on the flood risk partnership's vision for the strategy. Supporting documents were available to download from Lincolnshire County Council's website and hard copies were also made available.

Engagement with the public consultation exercise was limited but did include residents, business owners and district councillors. Of those who actively engaged with the consultation process, some useful discussions and insights were obtained. The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 is intended to provide the County Council and its partners in the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership with a means of outlining their collective aspirations for flood risk, water management and future water supply resilience, along with additional economic and social benefits that can be achieved for the county.

The strategy will align closely with other key initiatives such as the Local Industrial Strategy, the Strategic Economic Plan and long-term planning for infrastructure and housing provision, as well as environmental improvement and sustainability in the long term. Approval and support for this draft by members of the Flood Risk & Water Management Group was sought in developing the strategy for completion and final approval later in 2019.

Members were content to support the Strategy and the Chairman thanked Matt Harrison for his presentation.

**2832 Any Other Business.**

There being no further items of business, the meeting closed at 11.35.

**2833 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting and Annual Public Meeting was confirmed for **Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020** at **09.30am**, with format and location TBC although it was noted that it was likely to once again be a meeting via videoconferencing.

..... Chairman ..... Date  
W3rd BM 22.09.20.