

## UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board, held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at the Natural World Centre, Whisby Nature Park, Moor Lane, Thorpe on the Hill, Lincoln, LN6 9BW at 2pm.

### Present:

Cllr. C. Benn  
Mr. J. Boyall.  
Mr. B. Charlesworth.  
Cllr. M. Green  
Cllr. G. Hewson.  
Mr. D. Jackson  
Ms. E. E. Jenkinson  
Cllr. R. Longbottom  
Mr. F. H. Myers - **Chairman**  
Cllr R. Oates  
Mr. R. W. Parker  
Cllr. L. J. Pennell  
Mr. J.R. Scarborough. - **Vice Chairman**  
Mr. C. Smith  
Mrs. J.S.P. Smith.  
Mr. T. Speakman  
Cllr. C. Spray  
Mr. N. Tobin.  
Cllr. P.J. Vaughan. - **Vice Chairman**  
Mr. P. Wright.

### In Attendance:

Miss Jayne Flower, Executive Assistant.  
Mrs. Jane Froggatt, Chief Executive.  
Mr. Guy Hird, Engineering Services Officer.  
Mr. Steve Larter, Finance Consultant.  
Mr. Martin Shilling, Director of Operations & Engineering.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Mr. A. Buckley, Cllr. L. Dales, Cllr. S. England, Mr. P. Gowen, Mr. J. R. Hollis, Cllr. Mrs. R. Kaberry-Brown, Mr. V. Kerr, Mr. D. Knight, Mr. R. J. Phillips, Mr. G. E. Porter, Cllr. I. Stokes, Mr. B. F. White and Mr. S. H. White.

### 22.19 Declarations of Members' Interests.

Members present nominated by the five Councils declared interests relating to their respective Councils.

### 23.19 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman welcomed members to the September meeting of the Board.

He highlighted the five new members who had recently joined the Board following the start of the Councils' Civic year in May. Cllr. Mrs. Linda Dales had been nominated by Newark & Sherwood District Council, Cllrs. Mrs. Mary Green, Robert Oates and Chris Spray had been nominated by North Kesteven District Council and Cllr Chris Benn had been nominated by South Kesteven District Council.

The Chairman put on record his thanks to those four members who had left the Board, being Cllr Mrs Maureen Dobson for Newark & Sherwood District Council; Cllrs. Mrs. Pat Woodman, Mrs. Sue Howe and Peter Burley for North Kesteven District Council.

He further put on record thanks to the team at Witham House and the Group of IDBs' Operatives for the successful joint Annual Inspection held on Thursday, 19th September. Participating members had found it both informative and enjoyable.

#### **24.19 Minutes of the Board Meeting, 20.05.19.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were proposed by Nick Craft, seconded by Pat Vaughan and APPROVED as an accurate record.

##### *MATTERS ARISING:*

#### 24.19.1 Vacant Seats on the Board (minute 3.19.1 refers).

The Chief Executive confirmed to members that one vacant seat remained on the Board, for North Scarle, Broadholme and Skellingthorpe.

#### 24.19.2 Chief Executive's Report: (Applewhite) Manor Farm vs Natural England Appeal (minute 6.19.3 refers).

The Chief Executive outlined to members that the deadline for any final comments to be submitted had been extended to 13.09.19. Witham First District Internal Drainage Board had submitted comments and had nothing further to add.

#### 24.19.3 Director of Operations & Engineering Report: Lincolnshire Show (minute 17.19 refers).

Members were informed that due to the high rainfall and flood event that occurred during the week commencing 10.06.19, a decision was taken to withdraw staffing for the Lincolnshire Show ADA stand. All available staff were assisting the affected Boards and office staff were supporting the County Emergency Command and Control Centre.

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

#### **25.19 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting, 11.09.19.**

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Pat Vaughan, seconded by Mrs Jacky Smith and APPROVED as an accurate record and the recommendations to the Board were NOTED.

##### *MATTERS ARISING:*

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

## **26.19 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee meeting, 22.07.19.**

The minutes of Joint Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 had been circulated with the agenda for information and were noted.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

#### **26.19.1 Appointment of Director of Finance & Governance (item 6.1 refers).**

The Chief Executive highlighted to members that the Boards hold vacant the post of 'Senior Finance and Ratings Officer', since the previous post holder left the then group of 3 IDBs in May 2013. The budget in 2018/19 for this post was £68,900 and this budget plus the 'external support budget' of £21,500 were used in 2018/19 to meet the costs of the Finance Consultant (Steve Larter) and HR Consultant Support (Sarah Walden), total budget £90,400. The actual cost of the Finance Consultant was £83,846.78 and the cost of HR Consultant Support was £53,794.62 in 2018/19.

Regularising the position of Director of Finance and Governance and appointing the Finance Consultant to the role was discussed with Chairmen on 11th July 2019. They supported the option to appoint Steve Larter to the post rather than advertise. Regularising the post would provide the extra resilience required within the team, e.g. for County Emergency Centre rotas during flood events and more widely for office cover. It was also recognised that IR35 regulations were now tighter. Workload pressures also meant the role, previously a full-time role, was warranted as a full time role.

Following discussion, in its capacity as the Terms and Remuneration Committee, the Joint Services Committee was unanimous in ratifying the decision to appoint the part time Finance Consultant, Mr Steve Larter, to the full time position of Director of Finance and Governance for the four IDBs, with a start date of 01<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

#### **26.19.2 Organisational Structure Chart (Item 6.2 refers).**

Members were updated on some recent staff changes. There had been some recent movement of staff with new recruits during June, alongside some internal moves. These were summarised as follows:

- Billy Reddish LDO had on 01.07.19 moved from Upper Witham IDB to Witham First DIBD into a newly created post. This was in anticipation of potential retirement(s) and also in recognition of a large amount of tractor / flail capacity required in three of the four Boards. Billy is experienced and will be used across three Boards (work being recharged accordingly between them).
- On Upper Witham IDB there were two new Land Drainage Operatives appointed in June 2019, Darren Gowshall (predominantly on a tractor / flail) and Aaron Ward (predominantly on the midi-digger).

- A new small pumps team had been created, with the appointment of Witham Third DIDB's Adrian Skelton as Lead Pump Attendant. Upper Witham's Simon Horton was the Pump Maintenance Operative working with Adrian and they would both be supported as and when required by Alan Jarman (Witham Third DIDB) and Kevin Rossington (Witham First DIDB). They will also provide resilience and PS cover for Darren Scott in NELDB. This will provide more of a focus on Pumping Stations, given the four Boards have approaching 60 between them.
- For office staff, it was reported that Abi Gilbert had passed her first year exams and was starting the second year of her HNC course in September. Her contract had therefore been extended to 30.06.21.
- Guy Hird, Engineering Services Officer, had achieved 30 years' service to the Boards (originally to Upper Witham) in May 2019 and Guy had been presented with his long service award.

### 26.19.3 Environment Agency (Item 6.3 refers).

The Chief Executive advised members about a discussion at the Lincolnshire IDB CXs' forum on 02.07.19 about partnership working with colleagues at the EA and some perceived local difficulties. It had been agreed that the IDBs would prepare a list of issues by 05.07.19 and the list prepared relating the Witham and Humber Drainage Boards was tabled.

In summary, the list included (but not exhaustive):

- 5-year PSCA Agreements between each IDB and the EA expired 30.11.18.
- Lack of forward planning of PSCA works, short-order requests, making gearing up of staff / plant difficult alongside each Board's own work.
- Different approach from EA depots.
- Lack of EA sharing internal incident investigation reports (e.g. (1) 21.08.17 EA contractor 'left the sea doors open' on NELDB's Middle Drain and tidal flow caused the drain to overtop on to agricultural land (2) EA internal investigation into a complaint about UW's PSCA winter tree / bushing works at Foston Beck in January 2019).
- Lack of response to requests for decisions, e.g. NELDB been requesting a decision for years as to whether the EA will sell / lease a parcel of land locked land behind the NELDB owned Rosper Road Pitts in order to extend the environmental element of the Board's water retention / overspill area.
- Capacity and performance of EA tidal outfalls adversely impacting upon IDB systems (e.g. Goxhill).
- Acceptable standard of maintenance of raised flood defences, especially raised earth embankments (recent asset inspection scores and condition survey scores). A particular issue of badger setts in structures expected to protect adjacent land and property (raised flood embankments, like the EA's Queensdyke in Digby Fen area of Witham First DIDB).

A meeting had taken place with Norman Robinson, the EA's Area Director for Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire on 19.08.19.

26.19.4 Joint Services Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 2019/20 as at 30.06.19 (item 7 refers).

The Chief Executive highlighted to members the financial monitoring report for quarter 1 2019/20 on the Joint Services Budget as at 30.06.19.

The JSC compared the budget position for Q1 of 2019/20 to the actual position with the variance shown. The overall variance was £8,450 against a budget of £227,205 for the three months 01<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The approved annual budget 2019/20 for joint services is £839,620.

Most budgets were broadly on target. Witham Third, as the host Board, were showing an adverse variation in expenditure for External Support at £8k and ICT at £2k.

The Board noted that there were no concerns highlighted to members of the JSC at this stage of the financial year.

26.19.5 Insurance Renewals for the four Boards.

The Chief Executive highlighted to members that the Boards undertook a market test for their insurance arrangements ahead of the 2018/19 renewals and established a framework contract, available to all IDBs. The framework is hosted by Witham Third DIDB on behalf of the Witham and Humber Drainage Boards.

The framework contract in place allows any IDB in the country to access insurance requirements without having to undertake a separate tendering exercise and be compliant with public sector procurement regulations. The main insurances were held by Fiducia (Travelers & Lloyds of London) and Zurich Municipal Insurance, both of which are large insurance providers in the public sector. The motor cover had been transferred from LV to Allianz, due to the takeover of LV by Allianz earlier in the year.

Work was ongoing to ensure relevant and cost effective insurance cover was in place especially in areas such as Cyber cover where a combined policy was in place to cover the four Boards. Further, the value of the risks had also changed.

Members were advised that through undertaking this procurement exercise significant savings were made for the Boards of @£25k in total. The renewal exercise for 2019/20 had been undertaken and the following table details the impact for Upper Witham IDB. Whilst a comparison has been made to the 2017 base premium, this would have also increased due to the same issues (additional staff, higher equipment values, increased annual turnover, etc). Therefore, the actual comparative savings will be more than those stated.

Policy Type	2017 Renewal Premium £	2018 Renewal Premium £	2019 Renewal Premium £	Difference 2017 to 2018 £	Difference 2018 to 2019 £
Business Combined	11,058.50	11,843.38			
Professional indemnity	1,298.48	813.96	10,262.26	(765.78)	(2,375.08)
Management Liability	1,066.14				
Contractors Combined	n/a	Inc Business Combined	3,880.80	n/a	3,880.80
Fidelity Guarantee	n/a	252.00	282.24	252.00	30.24
Loss Recovery	402.60	n/a	n/a	(402.60)	n/a
Engineering Inspection	3,105.49	2,367.00	3,240.33	(738.49)	873.33
Engineering Insurance	347.36	319.20	319.20	(28.16)	0.00
Personal Accident	247.41	636.16	636.16	388.75	0.00
Motor Fleet	13,424.40				
Motor legal expenses	276.67	8,405.60	8,713.60	(5,297.47)	308.00
Commercial Legal expenses	110.00	288.96	288.96	178.96	0.00
Small craft policy (Boat)	244.20	563.36	Inc Business Combined	319.16	(563.36)
Cyber Liability	1,040.00	Group Policy W3rd	Group Policy W3rd	(1,040.00)	0.00
Revised total	32,623.25	25,489.62	27,643.55	(7,133.63)	2,153.93

The Contracts Combined policy (now shown separate to Business Combined) covers the plant and equipment held by the Board. The net increase was due to the additional value of the new equipment purchased, mainly the new Spearhead MPV in May 2019 and new wheeled and midi excavators in 2018/19.

The Motor Fleet policy covers road vehicles for comprehensive (vans, 4x4's, etc) and the larger plant for third party cover only, as the main value of the plant (i.e. damage/theft) is covered under the Contractors Combined policy.

The position on insurance renewals was noted.

#### 26.19.6 High Rainfall and Flood event of June 2019 (item 9 refers).

The high rainfall event began on Tuesday, 11th June and continued until Friday, 14th June, with a monthly rainfall total of 167mm, 135mm of which fell over a 72 hr period. The impact continued well beyond this period. The impact was very different in each of the four drainage districts.

For this Board, no incidents of flooding were reported, and no particular issues experienced with the maintained system. LCC were investigating reports of flooded properties within the district as part of their Section 19 investigations (e.g. Skellingthorpe). Over 300 properties had flooded across Lincolnshire, one third of these in Wainfleet.

The Boards had supported other IDBs in Lincolnshire which had been more seriously affected, particularly in the Wainfleet area. Although no claim had been submitted for those staff (like the Director, CX, Environment Officer) who had done shifts in the County Emergency Centre, where additional overtime costs for Operatives had been incurred, these had been submitted as a "Belwin Claim" via Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (total claim £7.1k).

There was an IDBs' wash-up of the June 2019 floods event held on Tuesday, 13.08.19 and then a county-wide and multi-agency emergency plan review of the event will be held on 25.09.19 (which Guy Hird as LRF lead for Lincolnshire IDBs and Neil Kemble for LMIDB would attend).

Members noted the minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

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

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

#### **27.19.1 Upper Witham IDB replacement depot and four Boards' joint office scheme at Meadow Lane, North Hykeham.**

For the benefit of new Board members, the Chief Executive detailed the Upper Witham IDB contract with Taylor Pearson (Construction) Ltd for a replacement depot facility for that Board and a joint office for the four IDBs. The contract was signed on 19.03.19 in the sum of £1,072,335.12.

The contract start date was 01.05.19, for a 40 weeks period to 05.02.20. Progress had been good to date and Taylor Pearson anticipated completing the build, subject to weather, by the end of November. As at 30.08.19:

- Demolition of former depot completed and site cleared
- Steel works completed
- First floor concrete beams completed 24.08.19
- A further 12,000 bricks delivered to site, the brickwork is 60% complete
- Rainwater harvesting tank delivered to site
- Foul water treatment tank installed 29.08.19
- With the exception of the surface water interceptor and rainwater harvesting tank, 90% of the site drainage completed.
- Discussion to finalise the alarms, fire detection system, CCTV & access control.
- Finalising internal layouts, including depot racking and office desk layouts
- Loop induction to be provided in the reception area and Board room
- As at 05.09.19 payments totalling £524,118.68 had been made by Upper Witham against completed works including a payment of £76,833.89 (inc VAT) made on 05.09.19.

The second element of the scheme was the sale of the existing Witham House building at J1 The Point.

The building was marketed with Banks Long & Co at offers over £250,000. Following viewings and two offers, the Board received an offer of £255,000. Accordingly, the Chairman and Chief Executive accepted the offer of £255,000 and Head of Terms had been drawn up w/c

02.09.19 for the sale. This specified completion of contracts between 02.02.20 and 14.02.20. Solicitors had been appointed by both parties.

It was noted that acceptance of the £255,000 was ratified by Upper Witham IDB's F&GPC on 11.09.19.

#### 27.19.2 Public Sector Co-operation Agreements.

Members were updated on one of the issues raised with the EA on 19.08.19, and by a number of IDBs around the County at the ADA Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 04.09.19, being the need to review the Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCAs).

Our four IDBs continue to undertake PSCA work for the EA, but the 5-year agreements expired 30.11.18.

On 16.08.19 a draft new PSCA agreement was received from the EA for each of the four Boards, plus an 'internal EA justification document' which sets out the benefits of PSCA working rather than using public procurement processes.

Officers in our IDBs, the four Chairmen and colleagues in other IDBs are not content with the detail of the proposed new PSCAs. Reasons include:

- As written, the PSCAs appear to set out an EA / contractor relationship not a partnership agreement between Flood Risk Management Authorities.
- Require each IDBs to provide a 24/7 response time of maximum 2 hours out of hours to the EA. This is a new condition and, whilst the Boards would seek to provide mutual aid, the Boards cannot sign up to in effect provide an on-call service to the EA, as they are not resourced to do so with current workforce numbers and plant.
- Board taking on role as client under CDM regulations.
- Level of professional indemnity cover required and holding this for six years post-programme.

This will be fed back locally to Adrian Clack at the EA and via ADA nationally the issue is to be addressed with the EA, including to see whether the existing PSCA formats could be extended pending agreement of new PSCA terms.

#### 27.19.3 Members' development / training event, Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

As the four IDBs usually organise a development / training event for members each autumn, this year colleagues have asked the Boards to organise an event for members from all Lincolnshire IDBs. This will be on Wednesday, 27th November 2019. A programme is to be finalised. The



venue is likely to be in central Lincolnshire, possibly Woodhall Spa or Horncastle. Members were encouraged to indicate whether or not they will be attending.

The Chief Executive's report was received and noted.

### **28.19 External Auditor's Notice of Closure on the IDB AGAR certificate on 2018/19.**

The Finance Consultant introduced the Notice of Closure on the IDB Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2018/19 that had been circulated with the agenda. It had been agreed at the Board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019, subsequently published on the Board's website for public inspection and despatched to the External Auditor on 7th June 2019. The public inspection period was from 10th June 2019 until 19th July 2019. The External Auditor has a statutory deadline of 30th September to complete their external audit and publish the formal Completion of Audit certificate.

The External Audit report was received on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and Notice of Conclusion of Audit was published on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019. There was one matter raised by the External Auditor which needs to be brought to the attention of the Board:

*'The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission and review. The AGAR had to be sent back for amendment'.*

There was a typographical error in the previous year's brought forward column but the main correction required was the treatment of the £1.2m PWLB loan drawn down in January 2019. This needed to be shown in 'Total other receipts' and also as 'balances carried forward'. These amendments were made and signed off by the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Board on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Members noted the correct Annual Governance and Accountability Return as now published and the External Audit Report on the AGAR 2018/19 with one matter arising, as set out.

It was noted this concludes the financial year 2018/19.

### **29.19 Risk Register.**

The Risk Register and accompanying documents had been circulated with the agenda.

The Finance Consultant advised members that currently, the four IDBs share a common Risk Register. However, as raised by the internal Auditor in his 2018/19 report, the Boards do not have a comprehensive approach to the management of risk, including a Policy statement or Risk Strategy.

This report put these documents in place and also revised the current Risk Register into something easier to understand and review. The previous version of the Risk Register had become cumbersome, with more detail added with each iteration.

The Corporate Risk Register captures the high-level risks the Board faces. These are generic to all four Boards with any specific risks to a particular Board highlighted. The five aims / objectives which three of the four Boards developed in a workshop with the

then Internal Auditor on 28.05.12 were retained. Members were reminded that Operational Risks were dealt with through a separate process with detailed and specific Risk Assessments.

The new style Risk Register showed the key risks under each Objective and whether the risk can be avoided, reduced or shared (e.g. through insurance). There is then an assessment of how likely (probability) the risk is and what impact (severity) it would have.

Being a first draft of the new style Risk Register it will need refining over the coming months. The Risk Register is considered by the Board at least twice annually. Firstly, in January ahead of agreeing the Budget for the following financial year and secondly in May when the Annual Governance Statement is completed.

The new Internal Audit Director for TIAA (Chris Harris) would revisit the Risk Management arrangements when he undertakes a review in mid-February 2020.

Following review, members were content to APPROVE the following documents:

- Risk Management Policy
- Risk Management Strategy
- Risk Management Strategy Statement
- Risk Register
- Detail of risk included in the Risk Register.

### **30.19 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.04.19 to 31.08.19.**

The Schedule of Expenditure incurred for the five months of 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 had been circulated with the agenda. It was highlighted that this refers to invoices paid in the five months period.

Expenditure totalled £1,490,224.53 or, excluding £189,946.45 VAT, the net amount of £1,300,442.34. Of this, £9,835.89 was rechargeable expenditure to other bodies.

Items raised by or highlighted to members included:

- Item 17: £29.94 (net) to BSN. for Burton PS toilet roll holder. John Scarborough queried the amount and it was confirmed that there would be other items on this invoice.
- Item 73: £1,600.00 (net) to Delta Simons Environmental Consultants. Geotechnical factual report at Thorpe Catchwater drain.
- Item 75: £8,845.00 (net) to E. Skinns Ltd for the fabrication and supply of a weed screen cleaner at Burton Pumping Station.
- Item 124: £219,458.00 (net) to Irelands Farm Machinery for the purchase of a Spearhead Twiga SPV2 970XT FX19 CUV as part of the approved plant programme 2019/20 (delivered in May 2019).
- Item 231: £15,371.80 (net) to Perry's Pumps Ltd. This was the pump lift, refurbishment and recommission of pump no.1 at Burton PS.
- Item 258: £23,546.95 (net) to Public Works Loan Board for the repayment of the loan, regarding the Depot (two payments p.a. in May and December).

- Items 311, 312, 313, 314 and 315: five payments to Taylor Pearson Construction Ltd totalling £460,090.43 (net) for depot works complete as per valuations 1 – 5 (less 5% retention).
- Items 361 to 436: various payments to Total Gas & Power. These all relate to electricity charges. There has been an ongoing issue with meter readings. As the Board pays on actuals and not estimates, there are now payments being made on queries from earlier in the year that are now resolved. The Finance consultant advised that as part of the new ESPO contract with Total Gas & Power smart meters will be installed on a rolling basis over the next few months.

Members received the expenditure schedule and NOTED the expenditure incurred in the five months 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

### **31.19 Financial Performance Report 2019/20, 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.**

The 2019/20 Financial Performance Report, detailing the five months 01<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 position, had been circulated with the agenda. The report was presented by the Finance Consultant. The summary position was:

	<b>2019/20 Budget</b>	<b>Profiled Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance (3-2)</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Income	(1,393,051)	(616,501)	(616,492)	9	
Board & General Admin	20,322	5,853	3,556	(2,297)	
One Off Schemes	105,000	0	0	0	
Conservation	2,000	236	265	29	
Depot	64,246	27,556	30,369	2,813	
Drains	574,212	292,768	283,322	(9,446)	
Pumping Stations	185,051	68,109	59,913	(8,196)	
Joint Admin/Witham House	141,700	51,392	56,276	4,884	
Consents & Enforcement	16,332	0	0	0	
Director of Operations/Engineers	114,025	37,894	37,760	(134)	
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(25,000)	0	0	0	
PWLB	0	0	0	0	
Rechargeable Works	25,000	6,011	31,095	25,084	
EA Precept	170,163	85,082	83,413	(1,669)	
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	0	0	0	0	
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	(35,410)	(42,947)	(7,537)	
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(77,010)</b>	<b>(73,471)</b>	<b>3,539</b>	<b>(19,461)</b>

Based on anticipated income for 2019/20 of (£1,393,051), the profiled income and expenditure position as at 31.08.19 was a surplus of (£77,010) compared with an actual 31.08.19 surplus position of (£73,471). This represented a modest variation of £3,539 after five months. However, it was highlighted that there were some rechargeable works expenditure (mostly PSCA works for the EA) which have been incurred and which will be invoiced. These total circa (£23k) income to the Board, hence a manual adjustment was shown (at the foot of the table), and the underlying position is a surplus of (£19,461).

On income, Special Levies had been received from the 5 councils in May 2019. This totalled (£413,607.06) to the Board (£221,065.00 from City of Lincoln Council, £98,128.57 NKDC, £66,444.25 SKDC, £22,665.50 WLDC and £5,302.84 Newark & Sherwood DC). The second tranche of Special Levy income is due 01.11.19. Drainage rates invoices of £244,231.71 had been posted in April 2019 and as at 31.08.19 (£213,353.15) income had been collected, a collection rate of 87.4% compared with

84.9% for the same month 5 2018/19. First reminders had been sent out on 01.08.19, final reminders would be posted this week and a court date of 29.11.19 for outstanding account holders had been confirmed. The collection rate had improved to 89.16% as at 23.09.19.

Also on income, the Highland Water claim had been submitted to the EA and was due for payment before 30.09.19. This comprises the balance on the actual claim of (£44,386) due on 2018/19 together with 80% (£150,800) on the claim estimate of (£188,500) for this year 2019/20. A total of (£195,186) is therefore due to be paid by the EA to the Board by 30.09.19.

On expenditure, the main one-off scheme anticipated is the refurbishment works at Pyewipe Pumping Station totalling £105k. The cost of this scheme is due to be underwritten by Anglian (Northern) RFCC, pending anticipated receipt of a S106 payment arising from development of the Western Growth Corridor in due course (at that point the RFCC to be reimbursed).

On budget headings, variations included £3k variation on expenditure on facilities, repairs and maintenance on the North Hykeham temporary depot site (e.g. security lighting, servicing of welfare facilities). Variations were positive on electricity budget (£5k), electrical inspections (£2k), offset by adverse variations on overtime of £5k and depreciation of £4k.

On plant and machinery, the following table showed purchases and sales for 2019/20 as at 31.08.19:

<b>Capital Movements</b>	<b>Approved £</b>	<b>Actual £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>
<b>Sales</b>			
Sale of surplus plant, vehicles & equipment			
- Spearhead Twiga MPV	(25,000)	(45,000)	(20,000)
- Forklift	(1,000)		1,000
Sale of Surplus Land	0	0	0
	<b>(26,000)</b>	<b>(45,000)</b>	<b>(19,000)</b>
<b>Purchases</b>			
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital			
- Spearhead Twiga2 MPV	220,000	219,458	(542)
- Telehandler/Forklift (defer from 2018/19)	25,000		(25,000)
Contribution from Plant & Machinery Reserve	<b>245,000</b>	<b>219,458</b>	<b>(25,542)</b>
	<b>219,000</b>	<b>174,458</b>	<b>(44,542)</b>
Net			

A breakdown was also provided on the new depot and office scheme, as at 05.09.19:

<b><u>New Depot &amp; Offices</u></b> <b><u>(as at 05/09/19)</u></b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Payments to</b>	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Main Contract	1,072,335	512,530	544,806	1,057,336	(14,999)
Contingency & Variations	107,234	14,556	53,115	67,671	(39,563)
Fit Out	25,000			0	(25,000)
Interim Office rent	20,000			0	(20,000)
	<b>1,224,569</b>	<b>527,086</b>	<b>597,921</b>	<b>1,125,007</b>	<b>(99,562)</b>
<b>Charged to Revenue 2018/19</b>					
Enabling Works	20,000	31,259	(7,000)	24,259	4,259
Professional Fees/Contingency		7,137		7,137	7,137
	<b>20,000</b>	<b>38,396</b>	<b>(7,000)</b>	<b>31,396</b>	<b>11,396</b>
<b>Overall Cost</b>	<b>1,244,569</b>	<b>565,482</b>	<b>590,921</b>	<b>1,156,403</b>	<b>(88,166)</b>

On bank balances and investments, as at 31.08.19 these were as follows:

Lloyds Current	£	99,379.61
Lloyds Deposit	£	127,187.95
Nationwide Instant Access	£	698,227.96
Nationwide 90 Day Notice	£	14,302.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>939,098.03</b>

It was noted that the Nationwide Instant Access account included the balance remaining on the PWLB loan, which is being used to fund the depot / office scheme (& will therefore reduce by a further circa £700k).

### **PWLB Loan - Balance Outstanding:**

**2.68%**

**£ 1,186,847.30**

*Original loan £1,200,000. Loan period 30 years from 18/01/2019. Maturity date 15th November 2048. Repayments made 15th May and 15th November each year.*

Gary Hewson queried whether the contingency set aside on the new depot project had been required yet on the project, and if so, who agrees the usage?

The Chief Executive explained that yes some of the contingency and variations budget had indeed been allocated. This was done to cover variances such as car park solar lighting, demarcation of pedestrian walkways in the car park. These are agreed as per the Board's Financial Regulations. There is a project / scheme meeting fortnightly to review scheme progress, valuations and scheme payments plus any variations (Chief Executive, Finance Consultant and Client side lead Garry Winterton).

Members received and NOTED the Finance Performance report 2019/20 as at month 5, 31.08.19.

### **32.19 Write-off of Drainage Rates.**

A report prepared by the Finance & Ratings Officer had been circulated with the agenda and was introduced by the Finance Consultant.

The Board has a policy for writing off Drainage Rate demands under £2.50. The following 31 accounts are under £2.50 for 2019/20 and invoices have not therefore been posted to account holders:

Account	Value £	Account	Value £
0021	0.67	0364	1.90
0081	1.01	0387	2.43
0085	1.35	0441	1.55
0087	2.02	0470	1.68
0093	2.43	0481	1.68
0100	0.61	0484	1.89
0128	2.29	0493	0.40
0173	2.02	0522	2.43
0179	1.95	0523	1.68
0184	1.08	0576	2.36
0189	1.21	0593	1.89
0248	2.02	0594	1.28
0258	2.16	0617	0.54
0289	1.62	0644	1.42
0295	1.62	0648	2.43
0297	1.08	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50.70</b>

In addition, the report requested a second category of write-off, Drainage Rates on unregistered land parcels.

After being contacted by a ratepayer (A/C 0748-9) reporting he did not own all the land being assessed in his account, a Land Registry search was actioned on field SK8784-0011-00. Unfortunately, the land in question is unregistered. SK8784-0011-00 has been moved to the unregistered land account until further information can be found. It was requested that the Board write off the £10.45 drainage rates that have accumulated on this parcel of land until the owner can be identified.

A recent rating query highlighted that maps in A/C's 0084-0 and 0686-9 were incorrect. The maps were corrected and a Land Registry search actioned. Field SK8847-5693-00 is unregistered. Periodic searches to ascertain ownership continue but until further information can be found SK8847-5693-00 has been moved to the unregistered land account. It was requested that the Board write off £105.91, being £25.91 Drainage Rates and £80.00 Court costs.

These two total £116.36.

A third category of request was write-off of Drainage Rates on duplicated land parcels. In January 2019, following a rate query, it came to light that parcel SK8685-8400-02 was in two accounts (0200-2 and 0598-9). Further investigations found that two parcels for the same plot had been created on the DRS system in error. The error was amended, the correct amounts were billed and paid (both accounts are now clear), but it created a balance of £15.66 in the Duplicated Land account. It was requested that this value was written off.

Finally, a fourth category of write-off was requested, Drainage Rates on unrecoverable accounts.

A ratepayer contacted the Board after receiving a Court Summons for the previous owner. A Land Registry search was actioned, the new owner was billed from the completion date on the notice. The Court costs were removed along with the adjusted

amount for the new owner. This has left a balance of £1.91 on the previous owner's account. Enquiries were made to locate the previous owner, but no information has been received. It was requested that the Board write-off the amount as being unrecoverable.

Members were content to APPROVE the write off of a total amount of £184.63, in the categories as detailed.

### **33.19 Health and Safety Update.**

A report prepared by the Operations Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was introduced by the Director of Operations and Engineering. Cope Health and Safety, the current external contractor, had now visited with their new Health and Safety Advisor, Simon Cross, who replaced our previous contact point Leila Quirke. There were no actions outstanding within any of the four Boards.

Two Near Misses had been reported since the last Health & Safety Report to the Boards. One on Witham Third, an employee reported almost colliding with a car on some bends with his Tractor Flail. The Operator has fitted an extra beacon to front flail and has been advised to approach bends more slowly. The second near miss occurred on this Board, Upper Witham, where an employee reported a near miss whilst driving out of the temporary depot site due to blind bend. The area around the entrance and along the road has been strimmed of the vegetation obscuring visibility and a sign has been put up warning traffic of a hidden gateway. All employees have been spoken to regarding this and instructed to be extra vigilant when leaving the site.

One accident has been reported. An employee on Upper Witham received an injury whilst using a hand bow saw. As the Operative slipped he dragged the saw across his hand. This required him to be taken to A&E by his colleague to have it dressed. The Operative returned to work the next day, therefore this incident was not reportable under Riddor.

A second accident had occurred more recently on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019, since the original report had been produced. A verbal update was provided. The Director of Operations and Engineering advised members that whilst a field service engineer was servicing the Atlas 150 the Board's Land Drainage Operative undertook cleaning glass on the cab rear window. The Operative stepped back and fell on to concrete hard standing causing bruising and concussion. He was immediately transferred to A&E by his colleague. The Operative had returned to work today, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019. This accident was also not RIDDOR reportable.

Training for employees from all four Boards continued, with overhead cable avoidance training for new staff booked for 29/10/19. All the workforce currently trained underwent their annual refresher training on the 18/09/19.

The role of Health and Safety Representative has been instigated within the Workforce and the Office staff, with one representative from each Board and one from the Office

Members received and noted the Health and Safety update.

### **34.19 Plant Programme update.**

The Chief Executive advised members that it was agreed last September that if any major revisions to the approved plant programme arose they would be brought back to the Board for approval. It was confirmed that none were planned for 2020/21.

The only possible roll over from this year is the replacement telehandler, which if not purchased by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 will roll over to 2020/21 but it is in the 2019/20 programme.

Members noted the update.

### **35.19 Director of Operations and Engineering Services' Report.**

The Director of Operations and Engineering Services' Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented to members, along with a verbal update:

- **Planned Maintenance Programme**

This summer's planned programme of maintenance work continued. The weather had been fair, with few delays caused by poor conditions. The good conditions had resulted in vigorous vegetation growth which made the work heavy going in places. The work completed by hand was especially hard, due to the conditions and quantity of material to be cut. The new members of the team are finding their way around the district. Whilst this slows work down, it is unavoidable.

- **High Rainfall Event June 2019**

Over the period 8 – 11<sup>th</sup> June, the County experienced several bouts of heavy, intense rainfall. The majority of this fell on the south and coastal districts. At Stenigot rain gauge, 153mm of rainfall fell over a 67 hr period. This equates to a 1 in 201 annual chance event. The Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme reservoir, which was designed to contain a 1 in 100 annual chance event was filled to 24% of its capacity.

This Board did not experience any particular problems. The pumping stations operated as expected. Staff from Witham House were involved in the planning and emergency response coordinated from the County Emergency Centre based at the Fire and Rescue station on South Park, Lincoln. This involved providing 24 hour cover to assist the emergency services response, in the main, to the failure of the raised defence on the Steeping Relief Channel at Wainfleet. Staff were the liaison between the IDBs' operations on the ground and the County's emergency response.

- **Depot Redevelopment**

The temporary arrangements put in place for the duration of the depot redevelopment are working satisfactorily. Access, as always, is the most difficult part of the arrangement with passing traffic making access and egress difficult for some pieces of plant. The depot scheme itself is progressing well.

- **Plant**

The major purchases in 2019/20 was the new Energreen SPV machine, delivered to the Board in May 2019 (with trade-in of the previous SPV).

The expected level of repairs had been experienced during the season, with replacement of bearings and hoses as necessary.



- **Pumping Stations**

The Board's officers met with consultants and contractors with the Environment Agency. It is planned to replace the pump control panels at Sandsyke and Aubourn sites. These panels control both EA and IDB pumps. The work will be part of the FDGiA programme of capital schemes and the Board will be contributing an appropriate sum towards the total cost. The Environment Agency has now agreed the specification and it is hoped to commence this scheme during this financial year 2019/20.

At Boultham PS, a pump and motor combination had been removed for periodic maintenance and repair. The work was undertaken by Axeflow of Huddersfield. The pump & motor were programmed to be re-commissioned in September when the second unit will be removed. The cost of this work was estimated at £12,965. There have unfortunately been delays to this work due to the EA work at the adjacent Bargate Sluice. The extensive plant, welfare unit and safety barriers caused access issues to Boultham PS.

At Burton PS the weedscreen will be installed at the end of the summer season.

- **Public Sector Co-operation Agreement [PSCA]**

The Board had combined its core maintenance work with additional work, undertaken in partnership with the EA. In total, the value of the work to be undertaken during 2019/20 has been estimated at £49,069.00.

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

Watercourse	Estimated Work Value
Boultham Catchwater Drain	£ 30,226.00
Skellingthorpe Beck	£ 6,291.00
Skinnand Dyke	£ 2,303.00
Cardinal Dyke	£ 1,935.00
Shire Dyke	£ 3,195.00
Foston Beck	£ 5,119.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 49,069.00</b>

The work consisted mainly of channel vegetation control and grass cutting, but included some chemical application in isolated locations.

- **Timberland Pumping Station Open Days 2019**

The station was open to the general public on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, as part of the Lincolnshire Heritage weekend. This open day coincided with the opening of the Dogdyke Pumping Station Preservation Trust, to ensure maximum publicity and attendance.

- **Lincolnshire Show 2019**

The County's Drainage Boards' attendance at the show planned for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June had to be cancelled this year due to the high rainfall event that badly affected many

areas of the county. Technical and administrative staff from the Boards affected were working shifts to cover the 24/7 response to this event.

Members received and NOTED the report and the verbal update.

### **36.19 Engineering Services Report.**

The Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda was presented by the Engineering Services Officer. Issues highlighted as follows:

UD-4618-2019-PLN UD-128-2013-PLN UD-2928-2016-FIN 2019/0294/RG3

#### **Western Growth Corridor**

Hybrid planning application for the sustainable urban extension of Lincoln on the site of Western Growth Corridor to comprise:- In Outline - Housing development of up to 3,200 dwellings; local centre comprising community, retail (A1 to A5), employment (B1) uses and parking; a primary school; up to 8HA of land (including key infrastructure) for up to 40,000sq.m of B1 and B2 development; up to 12ha of land (including key infrastructure) for sport, recreation and leisure (D2), a hotel (C3) food and drink outlets (A3 and A4) and a new community stadium for Lincoln City Football Club; Areas of formal and informal public open space; a network of public footpaths and cycleways associated engineering works to inform development platform and drainage system; new transport bridge link over to Beevor Street, and a new public footpath bridge over to Tritton Road. In Full - Details for means of access into the site from Skellingthorpe Road and Tritton Road.

Western Growth Corridor Skellingthorpe Road Lincoln Lincolnshire

“Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board district. The proposed development will affect a number of Board land drainage pumping stations and Board maintained watercourses.

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

**Reason** The location is within flood plain that has historically flooded, it is also identified on the Environment Agency Flood maps as being in Zone 3/2. Alternate locations outside the flood plain are available for development.

The Flood Risk Assessment considers the current flood design criteria, however there is uncertainty over the impact of climate change and the availability of funding to maintain or improve flood defences that protect the proposed development both immediately adjacent to the site (River Witham, Fosdyke Navigation and Boutham Catchwater) and the River Trent, which potentially is the greater threat (with tidal as well as fluvial flood risk from the River Trent).

Whilst the Board objects to the development, it will continue to work with the developer, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire CC and City of Lincoln Council through the Task and Finish Group/Technical Group. This is because the development will have a significant impact on the Board's pumped drainage system that serves Lincoln and the surrounding area and the Board wishes there is no negative impact on the surface water drainage to this area.

The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy submitted with the application in general is acceptable. However, there are parts of it that are **not acceptable**. Until the following areas have been addressed the application should not be determined:

- The development is phased over 23 years but the FRA does not set out the required drainage infrastructure for this phased approach. Drainage infrastructure must be put in place in advance of each phase of development to ensure existing property, land and infrastructure is not adversely affected.
- At various points it refers to Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board undertaking future maintenance of the new/modified watercourses serving the site. A formal request has yet to be received by the Board to consider scheduling these watercourses (6.4) and no agreement is in place for future maintenance. The LPA is urged to be clear about all future maintenance responsibilities for the drainage system.
- (3.6.4 & 4.4) Although the Board is currently undertaking the maintenance of Boutham Catchwater it should be noted that this is through the current Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) for the Environment Agency.
- (4.4) Currently the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board Byelaw distance is 6m not 9m, other references in the document correctly state 6m.
- (5.11 & 7) These sections state that the flood risk to existing housing is not increased. However, 5.6 states there is an increased flood risk. This is an anomaly needs to be clarified.
- (6.6.1 & 6.6.2) Refers to a 'temporary scenario for the discharge of surface water' this is unacceptable. It is essential an appropriate drainage link to the correct Board maintained watercourse is established at the onset of the development, particularly because of the relatively minimal cost of providing it in comparison to the Highway and other infrastructure works that will be provided. While it is important to create the drainage link, the size and attenuation volumes can be phased with the development.

It is also noted:

- (3.6.7 & 5.7) The Environment Agency model for the main river system gives a breach flood level 4.67m on the site from the River Trent.
- (5.1.3) Refers to the provision, at the cost to the developer, of a third pump at the Board's Coulson Road Pumping Station and an Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner at the 'Old' pump at Pyewipe Pumping station. This is to provide resilience to the Board's pumped system that serves the site. The need for such is stressed and the timing of the provision needs to be agreed.
- (5.5.1 & 5.6) The closure of the tunnel or syphon underneath the Fosdyke Navigation has negligible impact on the breach modelling.
- (6.3) SuDS will be used within the development in the form of swales and permeable pavement. This is in addition to the new linear watercourses providing attenuation directly within the Board's pumped drainage system.
- (6.10) The development is phased over a 23 year period.
- (7) Dwellings will be on raised platforms with a minimum level of 4.7m, the commercial area will remain within the flood plain with no ground raising.

In addition, the LPA is asked to note that under the terms of the Land Drainage Act 1991 the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse, including infilling or a diversion.

Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over

or within the byelaw distance (6m) of the top of the bank of a Board maintained watercourse.

The work done within the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy highlights the continued Flood Risk to areas of the City of Lincoln and the need to consider flood mitigation and drainage measures for proposed development in these areas and in future strategies.

The land ownership plan shows the ownership to include Skellingthorpe Pump Drain and Boutham Pump Drain and the adjacent access strips. This land is owned by Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board and has been registered with the Land Registry, title number LL361876. This therefore needs to be amended.

Members received and noted the report and the update, particularly in respect of the position on the proposed Western Growth Corridor development.

### **37.19 Consents and Enforcements Report.**

The Engineering Services Officer introduced the Consents and Enforcements Report which had been circulated with the agenda and set out the position, both within the drainage district and in the extended Rainfall Catchment where the Board acts for and on behalf of LCC, as the LLFA:

#### **Byelaw Consent Applications**

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
UD-4571-2019-CON	6000 North Hykeham Catchwater / Village Green, Lincoln Road	North Hykeham Town Council	Removal of timber footbridge and replacement with composite footbridge	19-06-19
UD-4631-2019-CON	5702 Boundary Dyke / off Brant Road, Waddington	Mr E Barlow	10m extension of culvert; widening of watercourse; 2no. stormwater outfalls	22-08-19
UD-4784-2019-CON	9000 Western Drain, Westborough / Manor, Cottage, Church Lane	Mr P J Livesley	New outfalls for 3no. existing surface water discharges	28-08-19

#### **Section 23 Land Drainage Act Consent Applications – District**

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
UD-4599-2019-CON	Littlegates Farm, Westborough	Mr D Madigan	Treated foul water and surface water discharges to ditch	07-05-19

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

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

Reference	Location	Applicant	Details	Date
UE-4705-2019-CON	Londonthorpe Woods, near Grantham	The Woodland Trust	Connection of pond to nearby ditch	19-08-19
UE-4764-2019-CON	Frieston Heath Lane, Caythorpe	Western Power Distribution	2no. ducted electricity cables crossing ditch	
UE-4804-2019-CON	Manor Farm, Stow	N K Taylor	Pipe in 252m of ditch	28-08-19

#### **Enforcement Issues – District**

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
UD-3565-2017-ENF	Fosdyke Delph, Lincoln	Caravans, sheds, and general rubbish obstructing access	Board are checking access with their machines
UD-4112-2018-ENF	Sand Beck, Stragglethorpe	Bank slip	Passed to Ian Coupland for further investigation.

#### **Enforcement Issues – Extended Area (the Board acts for LCC, as LLFA).**

Reference	Location	Description / Comments	Actions
-----------	----------	------------------------	---------

UE-3849-2018-ENF	Cow Lane, Upton	Maintenance required to watercourse	Investigations ongoing
UE-3929-2018-ENF	Black Lane & Jerusalem Road, Skellingthorpe	Blocked road culvert	Awaiting response from LCC
UE-4004-2018-ENF	63 Hykeham Road, Lincoln	Flooding in garden	Awaiting action by Lincoln City
UE-4057-2018-ENF	Brant Broughton, Lincoln	Flooding issues	Possible LCC issue
UE-4195-2018-ENF	19 Lotus Court, Lincoln, North Hykeham	Garden Flooding	Blocked watercourse, NKDC to clear

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

### **38.19 Westborough Flood Alleviation Scheme update.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was introduced by the Director of Operations and Engineering. Since partial completion in August 2017, this scheme has provided protection to residential properties laying on the eastern side of the village.

As previously reported to the Board, it has not been possible to complete the scheme as originally designed due to refusal of entry to land on the western side of the village. To enable the scheme to be completed, entry is required to land that lies outside of the Board's district. The Board's powers of entry on to land are very limited and rely upon free and unfettered access being permitted by a landowner. To date, the Board has been unable to agree this with the present landowner.

The Board has also liaised with all local authorities seeking assistance through the use of any powers that they may hold. Unfortunately, all local authorities have similar powers as those held by the Board.

During further discussions with Lincolnshire County Council, the Council [under their role as Lead Local Flood Authority] identified a small budget that may be used to purchase land as part of surface water flood alleviation schemes. They have agreed to make this available to the Board, should it enable the scheme to go ahead.

An offer to purchase a small piece of land [0.856 acre] upon which the work will be undertaken has been made to the landowner. We await a written response within the time scale requested (27.10.19).

Should the Board not receive a response to this approach then it will request a meeting with the Environment Agency to agree a way forward. This will most likely involve providing property level protection to the 1 property directly affected by flooding in this part of the catchment.

In offering meetings with the landowner, the Board has also offered mediation through the services of the National Farmers Union or the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee who are providing Grant in Aid funding toward the scheme.

The Chief Executive will attend a meeting of the Parish Council on 10.10.19.

Members noted the update on the overall Westborough FAS and in particular the on-going difficulties in completing the western element of the scheme (the eastern element being complete).

### **39.19 Pyewipe Pumping Station refurbishment**

A report had been circulated with the agenda.

This scheme was brought originally to the Board for consideration in November 2014. Since then some elements of the proposed scheme have been completed. Namely, the refurbishment of the 'Old electric pump' and the condition survey of the syphon culvert under the Fosdyke Canal.

Further work is required to ensure the operation of the penstocks at either end of the syphon culvert. The initial condition survey of the pipeline undertaken by divers was inconclusive but did confirm its fragility, method of construction and the difficulty in accessing it.

The major element of the scheme outstanding is the provision of a new Motor Control Centre [MCC] panel for the 3 electric powered pumps on this site. The existing controls are from the 1970's and are susceptible to breakdown and difficult to repair, maintain and operate. Also, they are located in 2 separate parts of the old pump house, part of which is suffering from subsidence.

It is proposed to construct or provide a new control house, either brick built or a pre-formed GRP cabinet within the existing compound, separate to the old pump house.

This will require the re-cabling of all the electric pumps to the new control house but will provide updated telemetry so that all operations of the site can be monitored and controlled remotely as required.

The scheme will hopefully benefit from Flood Defence Grant in Aid monies allocated by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee [RFCC], with the final bid being submitted for approval this financial year. The proposal being that the Anglian (Northern) RFCC underwrites the scheme, pending reimbursement via a Section 106 Agreement associated with the proposed Western Growth Corridor development.

As part of the scheme, a new automated weedscreen cleaner is to be provided. This is deemed necessary due to the flows directed towards the site from the Western Growth Corridor [WGC] development site. Given the importance of this station in the drainage and protection of the development, reliance upon manual clearance of some of the pumps is not appropriate. It was agreed with the developer of the WGC that a contribution towards the provision of this cleaner would be given to the Board, via a S106 Agreement.

However, delays in the construction of this site means that it is unlikely that this contribution will be forthcoming in the near future and this scheme needs to be progressed as soon as possible. In order that the project can be progressed, the RFCC has agreed to underwrite the developer contribution, with the Board repaying the underwritten sum as and when it is received from the developer. The sum to be underwritten is £85,000.

Planning permission for the construction of the new control house will be submitted shortly so that this process can run concurrently with the RFCC FDGiA approval process.

The timing of future elements of this scheme rely upon the confirmed allocation of grant monies and will be advised at future Board meetings. However, it is hoped to

commence work on this scheme during this financial year 2019/20, subject to RFCC approval.

Members received and noted the scheme update.

**40.19 Any Other Business.**


Mr Richard Parker asked officers if there were any concerns or plans in place with regard to the current expected rainfall, which had been predicted by the weather agencies to arrive this week and continue over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September. The Engineering Services Officer advised that warnings were currently precautionary. Reports currently stated a potential for widespread rain of 15-30mm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September between 2pm and 8pm. This could be 40-60mm localised and in the worst case scenario up to 70mm. This could lead to a potential risk of surface water flooding.

No serious issues were expected and all usual standby policies were in place. Operatives would be called in and precautionary obstruction runs would be undertaken as necessary

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 16:20.

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

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at The Natural World Centre, Whisby at 2pm.

 .....Chairman..........Date  
UWBM 29.09.19

