

WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the eighty second meeting of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board, incorporating the Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday, 22nd October 2013 at Minting Village Hall, Lincolnshire, LN9 5RX.

Present:

Mr. P.R. Hoyes– Incoming Chairman.
Mr. M.I. Thomas – Incoming Vice Chairman.
Mr. R. Armstrong
Cllr. S. Avison
Mr. W.S. Crane
Mr. R. Hairsine
Cllr. G. Hewson
Cllr. D.C. Hoyes MBE
Cllr. D. Jackson
Mr. M.G. Leaning
Cllr. Mrs. F.M. Martin MBE
Mr. C. Mason
Mr. I. Parker
Cllr. P. Phillipson
Mr. J.C. Smithson, Outgoing Chairman.
Mr. D. J. Straw
Cllr. P. Vaughan
Mr. R.J. Weightman

In attendance:

Mrs. Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
Mr. Martin Shilling	Director of Operations
Mrs. Anna Wilson	Finance and Rating Assistant

2181 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. B. Bilton, Mr. J. Boyall, Mr I.M. Clark, Cllr. C. Darcel, Cllr. I.G. Fleetwood, Mr. J.R. Garner, Cllr. W.H. Gray, Cllr. P. Harness, Cllr. Mrs. L.J. Marfleet and Mr. P. A. Spilman.

2182 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.

2183 Election of Chairman.

Mr. John C. Smithson had indicated previously that he would not be standing for re-election as Chairman. Accordingly, it was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously that Mr. Paul Hoyes would become the Board's new Chairman.

2184 Chairman's Announcements.

Mr. Paul Hoyes thanked Members for electing him as Chairman. He confirmed he was looking forward to the challenges ahead and intended to ensure the Board maintains high standards of service.

He went on to pay tribute to Mr. John C. Smithson, outgoing Chairman, who had been Chairman since October 2002 and a Board member for 41 years since 1972. This continued a long tradition of service to the Board by the Smithson family. As a thank you to the outgoing Chairman, Paul Hoyes presented him with a gift from members and officers. John Smithson thanked members of the Board and indicated he looked forward to continuing as an active member of the Board.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Stan Avison to the Board, as a new member nominated by East Lindsey District Council. Stan replaces Cllr. Ray Curtis, former Board member, who died in February 2013.

All other members of the Board remain as is which, the Chairman highlighted, means that in so far as ratepayer members were concerned, the Board continues to carry two vacant seats from the November 2012 Election. One vacant seat is for City of Lincoln and Greetwell and the second is for Langworth. Approaches to co-opt individuals have not been successful to date and he asked members to speak to him if they knew people who may be interested in membership of the Board.

The Chairman then reported on a staff long service award. Mr. Roy Creasey, the Board's Pump Man, completed 30 years' service with the Board on 03rd October 2013. Roy had opted to be presented with his award by the Chairman at the Depot, rather than come to the Board meeting, but the Chairman wished members to be aware of his long service.

2185 Election of Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Max Thomas was proposed, seconded and elected unanimously as Vice Chairman of the Board.

2186 Election to the Board's Standing Committee.

Seven members were elected to the Board's Standing Committee for the forthcoming year. These were the Chairman (Paul Hoyes), the Vice Chairman (Max Thomas), Mr. Denis Hoyes, MBE, Mr. Bob Armstrong, Mr. Ian Clark, Cllr. Ian Fleetwood and Mr. John C. Smithson.

2187 Election to the Joint Administration Committee.

Since the April 2009 Joint Administration Agreement between the Board, Upper Witham IDB and Witham First DIDB, the three Boards have operated a Joint Administration Committee.

Three members were elected to the Joint Administration Committee namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Mr. Bob Armstrong.

Two members were elected to serve as deputies for the Joint Administration Committee members, namely Mr. Ian Clark and Cllr. Ian Fleetwood.

2188 Calendar of 2014 meetings.

The following meetings of the Board and its Standing Committee were AGREED for 2014:

Board

- Tuesday, 28th January 2014 at 10.30am in Minting Village Hall.
- Tuesday, 29th April 2014 at 10.30am in Minting Village Hall.
- Tuesday, 24th June 2014 at 10.30am in Minting Village Hall.
- Tuesday, 30th September 2014 at 10.30am (venue to be confirmed).
- Tuesday, 11th November 2014 (+AGM) at 10.30am (venue to be confirmed).

Standing Committee

- Tuesday, 14th January 2014 at 10am in the Depot.
- Tuesday, 15th April 2014 at 10am in the Depot.
- Tuesday, 10th June 2014 at 10am in the Depot.
- Tuesday, 16th September 2014 at 10am in the Depot.
- Tuesday, 28th October 2014 at 10am in the Depot.

2189 Minutes of the Board's meeting held on Tuesday, 25th June 2013.

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Tuesday, 25th June 2013 at Coningsby Community Hall were APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

2145 Financial Performance (Highland Water).

The Chief Executive raised the issue of Highland Water payments from the Environment Agency to the Board for receipt of water from upland areas. At the ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 17.10.13 the RFCC Chairman, Mr. Robert Caudwell, had confirmed that the Committee would be considering on 18.10.13 a paper to streamline Highland Water payments and also that the Highland Water claims received from IDBs for 2013/14 were higher than the EA had made provision for in budgets. There was a problem in the EA meeting the claims in full for 2013/14 and whilst these are discretionary payments under the Land Drainage Act 1991, they have always been paid in full and the income to the Board from this source is considerable (£235,216 total claim in 2013/14). Also, any non-payment at this stage in the financial year would cause a cost pressure when budgets had been set in January 2013. It was confirmed that a meeting of IDB Chairmen and Chief Executives had been convened by the Environment Agency for Friday, 25th October with the RFCC Chairman.

2162 National ADA Demonstration.

Members had attended the ADA Demonstration 2013 which had been hosted by North Level District IDB at Cross Guns Pumping Station on 17th July. Over 1,100 people had attended the working demonstration site on what was one of the hottest days of the year.

2164 Secondment of Director of Operations and Works Supervisor to provide a service to Upper Witham IDB.

The Chief Executive confirmed that this arrangement, which started on 01st August 2013, had been discussed at the Board's Standing Committee meeting on 08.10.13. It appeared to be working well to date, albeit this was 3 months into the initial six months interim arrangements and the weather had been dry.

2169 Board's Insurances.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the actual cost of insurance policy renewals to 30th June 2014 was £22,098.37, an increase of £1,642.95 on last year. In addition, as usual a tractor had been hired in for a few months over summer to provide additional flail capacity and the insurance for such was £819. This together with 2 minor amendments of £29.27 and £90.73 meant a grand total for 2013/14 insurance costs of £24,680.32.

2177 Ings Drain, Horncastle.

It was confirmed that this FDGiA funded scheme had now been completed and the permanent twin pump chamber will give greater confidence to local residents in Horncastle. The Board had been paid £24,300 on 18.04.13 but was awaiting payment of the final £35,700 on the total £60k scheme from the Environment Agency. This was being actively pursued. Cllr. Mrs. Fiona Martin stated that she was pleased that this permanent pump had now been installed and she suggested that the Board should promote positively the range of issues in which it is involved in Horncastle. Members NOTED the update and completion of the scheme but that the balance of FDGiA monies was owed to the Board.

2190 Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee meeting on 15th July 2013.

The recommendations to the Board from the Committee were NOTED and the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2013 were APPROVED.

MATTERS ARISING:

4.1. New Finance SAGE 200 and SAGE 50 Pay Systems

The Chief Executive confirmed that budgets had now been uploaded on to SAGE 200. Financial reports were now being produced and a process had been put in place to produce monthly bank reconciliations.

4.2 Caldicot & Wentlodge Levels Welsh Audit Office IDB Public Interest Report (08.10.12).

This remains a significant issue for the industry, which ADA nationally is

endeavouring to impress upon all IDBs.

Cllr. Gary Hewson enquired about the 3 Strategic Direction documents and the Chief Executive confirmed that initial drafts would go to the Joint Administration Committee meeting on 02.12.13.

Members NOTED the issues raised by the Public Interest Report and the range of policies coming to the Board.

5. Chief Executive's Report.

Further to interim staffing arrangements reported to the Board on 25.06.13, the Chief Executive reported that the former Senior Finance and Ratings Officer had resigned with effect from 16.08.13.

2191 Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on 8th October 2013.

The recommendations to the Board from the Committee were NOTED and the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2013 were APPROVED.

MATTERS ARISING:

12. Director of Operations' Report.

There had been discussion at the Standing Committee on 08.10.13 about the results of the condition survey, undertaken by Shoebridge Engineering on the electric pump motors, which showed £45,700 of priority repairs needed to a variety of the Board's pumps. The Board ratified the Standing Committee's decision that the work should commence, to reduce the risk of a catastrophic pump failure, and NOTED that as much cost as practicable would be funded through virement but if there was insufficient flexibility to contain the repairs within the 2013/14 approved budget, a proposition would come to the 28.01.14 meeting to fund some of the repairs from reserves.

2192 Closure of Annual Accounts 2012/13.

A Briefing Note on the Closure of Accounts for 2012/13 had been circulated with the Agenda. The Board had approved the Statement of Accounts 2012/13 and the IDB1 Annual Return at its meeting on 25.06.13. The Board had also accepted the Internal Auditor's report on 2012/13 and his 'adequate assurance' rating. The IDB1 Annual Return, a year end bank reconciliation, the Internal Auditor's engagement letter, copies of the Internal Auditor's reports, profile of the Internal Auditor and minutes of Meetings where Audit reports were discussed during 2012/13 had all been submitted on 26.06.13 to Grant Thornton, External Auditors, at their Bristol Office.

It was confirmed that the audited Annual Return for the Board was returned on 17.09.13 (the Statement of Accounts retain the status of 'unaudited accounts', although approved by the Board on 25.06.13, now that the audit regime for IDBs has changed and only the IDB1 Annual Return is reviewed). The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was also returned on 17.09.13 and this had been completed and advertised, as required. The Notice of

Conclusion of Audit, the audited IDB1 Annual Return 2012/13 and the unaudited Statement of Accounts were now all available on the Board's website at www.witham-3rd-idb.gov.uk.

Pleasingly, Section 3 of the IDB1 Annual Return which is the External Auditor's certificate and opinion 2012/13 had been completed on 12.09.13 and returned with no matters to report which affect the audit opinion (in other words, the Board has received a clean audit for 2012/13 with no qualifications).

The Chief Executive did draw to members' attention Appendix 1 to the Briefing Note which was an "other matters report not affecting our opinion which we wish to bring to the attention of the Board", issued by Grant Thornton. It was explained that this relates to the treatment of fixed assets (like plant, vehicles and machinery) and whether Box 9 of the IDB1 Return should have been completed using historic (original purchase cost) asset values or current (depreciated) values. Advice had been given (by Grant Thornton) to use current, depreciated values and that advice was followed in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts and the IDB1 Annual Return for 2012/13. However, Grant Thornton's Bristol Office had subsequently sought advice from ADA who advised that IDBs should use historic values (which is contrary to ADA's Practitioners' Guide 2006, against which IDBs are audited). A copy of the advice in the ADA Practitioners' Guide (page 75, paragraph 3.83) was at Appendix 2 to the Briefing Note which stated that Box 9, Total Fixed Assets and long term assets, should be:

"the value of all fixed assets owned by the Board as recorded in the asset register or schedule of assets and liabilities, measured at current book value 'current book value' should be an informed assessment of the open market value of the asset or the cost of reconstructing it in its existing condition".

The Chief Executive confirmed that whilst this was not an issue for the 2012/13 IDB1 Annual Return, she had concerns that in effect the Board now had conflicting guidance from the External Auditors and the ADA Practitioners' Guide 2006 as to how the accounts should treat fixed assets and this needed to be resolved before 31.03.14 so that the arrangements to be followed for Closure of Accounts 2013/14 were clear.

Members received and NOTED the External Auditor's 'Other Matters Report' but, after a discussion about accounting standards, the Board RESOLVED to NOTE the recommendation to in future use historic costs for fixed assets but agreed with Standing Committee's recommendation not to accept it, asking the Chief Executive to continue to pursue the issue.

2193 Financial Report to 30.09.13, month 6 of 2013/14.

The month six financial report 2013/14 had been circulated with the agenda which covered income, expenditure, drainage rates collection performance and bank balances. This was the first report to the Board from the new SAGE 200 system.

On income, all 3 Councils had paid the May instalment Special Levy monies, the next instalments were due on 01st November. Income was, however, £57.1k behind anticipated profile as at 30th September but this was Highland Water payments due from the EA. Claims had been submitted on 24th July but no payments had yet been received and, as discussed earlier, a meeting had been convened for 25th October between the RFCC Chairman and

IDBs to address the problem in funding IDBs' Highland Water claims for 2013/14. Total income received to 30th September was £520,747 against a six months profile of £577,679.

Expenditure for six months totalled £526,179, £22k over the budget of £504,244 for the six months. Joint Administration costs were £5,781 over profile of £45,953 but this was largely due to dual running costs, between May and September, relating to the former Senior Finance and Ratings Officer and the Interim Finance Officer and the spend will therefore reduce in the next six months. Also, expenditure had been incurred on the £60k Ings Drain scheme at Horncastle and FDGiA grant monies of £35,700 were still outstanding to the Board.

Drainage rates collection was good as at 30th September at 95%, with a total of £8.2k outstanding (of which, £5.3k relates to 2013/14 rates and £2.9k was carried forward from previous years). Final reminders had been sent out on 02nd October.

The combined bank balances as at 30th September were £442,295 which includes all funds held by the Board as there were no separate investments.

In summary, outstanding income is being pursued mainly relating to Highland Water Claims but also to the Ings Drain, Horncastle FDGiA scheme. Expenditure is slightly over profile by £22k, mainly to due to a slight increase in joint administration costs for a period of four months and also expenditure incurred on capital at Ings Drain not yet matched by income from the Environment Agency.

At this point, the Board is on target to achieve a break-even 31st March 2014 year end position but the Highland Water claim is a risk as too is the £45,700 cost of pump electrical motor repairs, which are not in budget. Over the next couple of months an assessment would be made as to what proportion of the pump repairs could be managed as a cost pressure and what proportion may need to be funded from reserves.

Members NOTED the financial position as at 30th September, the forthcoming discussion about Highland Water IDB claims and the £45,700 cost pressure associated with pump electrical motor repairs. It was also NOTED that the 31st March 2014 forecast year-end position was a break-even position.

2194 Statement of Expenditure 01.06.13 to 30.09.13.

The schedule of expenditure for the 4 months period 01st June to 30th September 2013 had been circulated with the agenda. This totalled £463,061.48 gross, £421,405.89 net of VAT (which is reclaimable).

This was higher than usual but it included the £92,526.40 (£77,142.00 net of VAT) as the cost of the new JCB Excavator JS160 after trade in of £32,000 (excl.VAT). The total also included £23,349.49 expenditure with Towergate for renewal of the Board's insurance policies to June 2014.

The Statement of Expenditure was NOTED.

2195 Pumping Station Electricity Contracts.

A Briefing Note on pumping station electricity contracts had been circulated with the agenda. There were two categories of contracts, non-half hourly (NHH) and Half-Hourly (HH) contracts.

The Board has 10 pumping stations on NHH contracts with Eon which expire on 30th November 2013. These are Bardney (Abbey Road), Bardney Fen, Manor Farm Bardney, Coningsby, the Depot, Dogdyke, Duckpool (Stixwould), Old Mill (Kirkstead), Marsh Lane and Fen (Stainfield). Quotations had been received from the Board's Broker on 08.08.13 comparing renewal prices between 3 potential providers, Eon, BG and SSE.

Members noted that the cheapest NHH contracts quotation, for 36 months from 01.11.13 to 30.11.16 was with SSE (and that incurs a 22% price increase over the 5 years compared, 2011-2016). The day time tariff will be 11.710p/kwh and the night tariff will be 7.034p/kwh.

It was noted that the 4 pumping stations on HH contracts, i.e. Short Ferry, Greetwell, Southrey and Woodhall Spa (Mill Lane), are in contracts which expire on 31.10.13. These had been renewed in May 2013, with EDF (the current provider) from 01.11.13 for 24 months to 31.10.15, after a similar market testing exercise by the Board's electricity broker.

It was NOTED that the Board's 10 NHH pumping station electricity contracts had been renewed, with a change of provider to SSE, for 36 months from 01.11.13 to 30.11.16. It was also NOTED that the 4HH pumping station electricity contracts had been renewed, remaining with EDF, for 24 months from 01.11.13 to 31.10.15.

2196 Pensions Discretions Policy.

A proposed Pensions Discretions Policy had been circulated with the agenda. The Chief Executive advised that the Board is an Employer member of the Lincolnshire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and, as such, some areas of the LGPS are left to Employers' local discretion and there is a requirement to have a local policy in place (for certain matters within scheme regulations) and not having a local policy means the Employer IDB is in breach of its statutory duties and is liable for this breach. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 made it a statutory requirement that an "Employer publishes and maintains a written policy on the exercise of defined discretions".

The Employer discretions must be formally determined by the Board, a written policy must be published and maintained and it is a requirement on the Board to notify the administering authority of the LGPS in Lincolnshire (Mouchel, for LCC) on what basis the local discretions will be operated. It was explained that this is the purpose of the paper, to set out the necessary discretions and ask the Board to approve each policy statement as listed. Also, as all members of staff are LGPS members, it was proposed that the pensions discretions policy should be the same for all 3 IDBs, i.e. Upper Witham IDB, Witham First DIDB and Witham Third DIDB. The Chief Executive advised that she had gone through the Pension Discretions with the Internal Auditor who was satisfied with the reasonableness of what was proposed.

The discretions which must be covered in the policy included:

- power of the Employer to increase total membership of an active member.
- power of the Employing authority to award additional pension.
- flexible retirement.
- choice of early payment of pension.

In addition, in the interests of transparency and consistency, Employers are advised to also have policies in place to cover other discretions including ill health and redundancy.

The detail in the policy was then discussed, with reference to each of the required discretion proposed policy statements by the Board, e.g. the Board's power to increase total membership of active members where the recommended policy was that the Board notes this discretion but the Board has no intention to make use of this discretionary power on the basis on cost. In summary, the proposed policy position for each of the discretions was conservative.

Following discussion, the Board APPROVED the Pensions Discretions Policy mandating the Chairman and Chief Executive to sign it, return a copy to Mouchel and to publish it. The review period was set at 3 years or sooner if required.

2197 Health & Safety Policy.

A proposed Health & Safety Policy had been circulated with the agenda.

It was intended as an overarching framework for the Board, setting out the Board's Health and Safety Statement of Intent, Policy Statement, the responsibilities of the Board, of Managers, Supervisors and of Employees. It referenced applicable Acts and Regulations but the detail on these was not covered in the policy, that is for local guidance.

The Board APPROVED the Health and Safety Policy, noting a review date by 31st October 2015.

2198 Director of Operations' Report.

The Director of Operations presented his report, previously circulated, to 30th September.

The planned summer maintenance programme had progressed well, the dry weather meaning no delays due to inclement weather and with good ground conditions this year. Work accessed from arable fields was complete, the remaining lengths being accessed via strips and access tracks.

However, he highlighted that last year's heavy rainfall and high flow conditions had resulted in many locations where the watercourse profile had been damaged, requiring remedial works. This involved either reprofiling of channel batters or the reinstatement of slips.

The Works Supervisor, Ian Coupland, had divided his time equally between the Board and Upper Witham IDB where he is covering a similar role from 01st August, initially for a six

months period. Barry Holland has been appointed as Working Foreman for the Board, to provide a point of co-ordination and guidance to the Board's workforce. These arrangements, together with the Director of Operations covering also the role of Director of Operations for Upper Witham IDB, in addition to fulfilling that role for the Board and for Witham First DIDB, are in place until 31st January 2014 and were under continuous review. They are saving the Board £27k in 2013/14 but, as importantly, the arrangements need to be resilient at times of heavy rainfall and high flow.

As last year, a tractor had been hired in during summer months to 31st October to operate the front mounted paddock mower. This enabled the cutting of access tracks and the tops of batter slopes. It provides the necessary additional flail capacity at the height of the cutting season.

Also on plant, the new JCB JS160 had performed well with no problems since delivery in July. Members were shown a photograph of it in operation, its adjustable dipper arm having proved invaluable in many areas under tree canopies throughout the district and enabling it to work flexibly in a variety of channel sizes.

The Director of Operations then outlined the detail of the Shoebridge Engineering condition survey report, recently commissioned, on the electrical motors of the Board's surface mounted pumps. The testing had shown a number of faults within some pumps (Bardney Abbey, 2 at Dogdyke, 2 at Coningsby, 2 at Marsh Lane, Greetwell and 2 at Southrey) which does not prevent them being operated but which does indicate failure whilst under load is probable. As discussed earlier, the required repairs total £45,700 and a programme has been developed. Indeed motor no.1 has been removed from Southrey PS for inspection and repair and a fault has been identified within the rotor which may require a complete disassembly and rewind.

Also at Pumping Stations, due to low summer rainfall levels, some pumps have been turned off (Bardney Manor, Bardney Fen, Bardney Abbey, Southrey and Manor Farm) or set to a high summer level in order for water to be available for abstraction if required.

Members were then shown a photograph of the new overhead lifting beam recently installed at Fiskerton PS which will assist with the repair work to the back up diesel engines.

It was also confirmed that the completion of the FDGiA funded Ings Drain scheme at Horncastle means that water to be pumped from the Ings system when levels in the River Bain are too high to allow gravity discharge. The station is connected to the telemetry system maintained by Upper Witham IDB which allows the station to be monitored and, when required, operated remotely by Witham Third DIDB's officers.

Members received and NOTED the Director of Operations' report and presentation.

2199 Consents & Enforcement Cases.

A report on Consents & Enforcement cases within the Board's drainage district and undertaken for the LLFA in the extended catchment area, up to 10th October 2013, had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The Engineer's report outlined there had been 14 enforcement cases and 1 consent in the last 6 months in the extended catchment area. Information has been submitted to LCC, as the LLFA, on a quarterly basis and under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Board is paid annually in March.

The 8 enforcement cases within the district were set out in the report, together with 5 district consent applications.

A significant number of Enforcement cases had been resolved and were shown as closed in the report, but the caseload remained high across the Board, Upper Witham IDB and Witham First DIDB at 76 enforcement cases in total.

Members NOTED the report.

2200 Summary of Planning Applications received.

The Engineer's report, which had been circulated with the agenda, set out the planning applications sent through by Local Planning Authorities and comments submitted to them for the period 11.06.13 to 03.10.13.

The comments submitted on individual applications were received and NOTED.

2201 Position Statement on Mark Avenue culvert in Horncastle.

An update on this case had been provided by the Board's Engineer and circulated with the agenda.

Anglian Water (AWS) had originally asked officers whether the Board would be willing to adopt the 395 metres long, 600mm diameter flood relief culvert (known as Mark Avenue Culvert) which was installed in circa 1983.

Since the previous update of 12.06.13, the Board's Engineer had calculated the appropriate commuted sum payment at £76,542 and this had been submitted to AWS on 12.08.13. The analysis comprised:

- one off costs of felling trees, creating vehicle access and replacement of whole culvert (at appropriate point in lifecycle).
- periodic costs of regular inspections, de-silting, CCTV survey, weedscreen replacement, culvert repairs.
- costs discounted according to rates defined in the Treasury Green Book.
- 150 years as period of discounting (as used by LCC for infrastructure).

A response had been received from AWA on 16.09.13 which said the Board's calculations had been passed to their Asset Management Team for consideration.

Following discussion, the Board APPROVED in principle the adoption of Mark Avenue Culvert in Horncastle and delegated authority to Officers to agree a commuted sum payment to the Board of circa £76,542, if practicable before the Board's next meeting in January 2014. Whether AWA is willing to reach such an agreement was not known, but the original request for adoption came from AWS and the Board accepted the Engineer's advice that

£76,542 was a reasonable commuted sum payment to the Board based on the standard method of calculation.

2202 Proposal from Manorcrest Homes Ltd. for the Board to adopt the maintenance and schedule a watercourse in the Bennett's Mill Close area in Woodhall Spa.

The Board had received a request from Manorcrest Homes Ltd, who are currently developing residential properties in the Bennett's Mill Close area of Woodhall Spa, for adoption of a riparian open watercourse that runs south-west from the site along a route adjacent to the dismantled railway. This riparian drainage system serves a number of residential properties in the St. Peter's Drive/Albany Road area of Woodhall Spa.

The Director of Operations explained that a number of properties in the area had suffered surface water flooding on a number of occasions in recent years. This had been primarily due to obstructions to flow in the surface water sewer system, but also attributable to the poorly maintained riparian system into which it flows.

The riparian watercourse adjacent to the dismantled railway carries water from the Albany Road area towards Abbey Lane Drain and alternatively, the Borrow Pits Drain at Kirkstead Bridge. The watercourse was cleared and reprofiled through a joint scheme between the Board and East Lindsey District Council in 2011. In addition, Abbey Lane Drain was reprofiled and adopted by the Board in 2011 as this likely future development was anticipated.

The Chief Executive advised of an amendment to the recommended option 1, which had been to adopt the riparian system from Bennett's Mill Close to Abbey Lane Drain (reach A to B on the location plan provided). The landowner of the riparian system A-B had asked that at this stage the Board does not adopt the watercourse downstream of Bennett's Mill Close.

After discussion, the Board AGREED to adopt the watercourse at Bennett's Mill Close, as requested by Manorcrest Homes Ltd., and AGREED not to adopt the riparian watercourse A to B (to Abbey Lane Drain) at this stage, providing a maintenance schedule could be agreed with the riparian owner such that the watercourse is maintained to a high standard.

2203 Any Other Business.

There were no further items of business.

2204 Date, time & place of next meeting.

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 28th January 2014 at 10.30am in Minting Village Hall.

..... Chairman Date

W3rd BM 22.10.13.
JEF/KD 08.11.13