

## WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

**Minutes of the one hundred and twenty fourth meeting of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Branston Booths Village Hall at 2pm.**

### Present:

Mr E Applewhite  
Mr D C Armstrong                      Chairman  
Mr D Busby  
Cllr I Carrington  
Mr P Gilbert  
Cllr M Head  
Cllr G Hewson  
Mr A Hodgson  
Cllr P Lundgren  
Dr B Maplethorpe  
Mr S Maplethorpe  
Mr A Means  
Mr C R Oxby  
Cllr P J Vaughan

### In attendance:

Miss Jayne Flower                      Executive Assistant  
Mrs Jane Froggatt                      Chief Executive  
Mr Steve Larter                      Director of Finance & Governance  
Mrs Georgina Nichols                      Capital Programme Manager  
Mr Martin Shilling                      Director of Engineering & Technical Services

### **2605 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Carrott (Vice Chairman), Mr S Cobb, Mr M Harrison, Mr R Hickling, Mr D Leggate, Mr S Leggate, Mr I Mair, Dr V Stanton and Cllr S Waring.

### **2606 Declarations of Interest.**

Declarations of interest were received from members appointed by City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council, in matters relating to their respective Councils.

### **2607 Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed members to the January meeting of the Board and started by thanking them for re-electing him as Chairman, at the November Annual Public Meeting and by thanking Peter Gilbert, former Chairman, who had chaired the November meeting. The Chairman once again highlighted that the Board has 3 vacant seats and asked that if anyone had suggestions of people who may be interested in joining to represent the following electoral wards, then please do speak to himself or to Jane Froggatt:

- Blankney & Martin Fens

- Heighington Fen & Lincoln
- Sleaford

Traditionally at the January meeting the focus is on meeting the Board's legal duty to set a financially balanced budget for the new financial year from 01st April. Members had the proposed Budget Estimates 2023/24 on the agenda today and this paper is linked with the following paper, where the Board is asked to set the land value, approve land movements during the calendar year 2022 and set the Penny Rate [setting the Penny Rate then drives what we set as the Drainage Rates and the 2 Councils' Special Levies].

This year Officers and Executive Committee are recommending to the Board a **29.00% increase in the Penny Rate**, an increase far higher than we have needed to bring in previous years. An increase of 15% is proposed in the 3 other Witham & Humber Drainage Boards and other IDBs nationally are known to be facing high increases, e.g., the Water Management Consortium, which includes the largest IDB nationally in Lindsey Marsh IDB, is this week taking proposed increases to its Boards in the range of 19.5% to 35%.

These are unusual economic times, and the Board is facing significant cost pressures across pay, fuel costs, insurances, repairs and maintenance costs etc. The Chairman highlighted that excluding electricity costs, the raft of other cost pressures could be contained with a 6.74% increase in the Penny Rate, rather than the proposed 29%. It is when we overlay the impact of the steep increase in electricity costs at our Pumping Stations that the 29% increase is required, in order to set a financially balanced budget for next year.

There has been much discussion locally and nationally about the position in which this places IDBs across the county, and the 350 drainage rates payers and two councils locally that pay Special Levies to the Board

### **2608 Minutes of the Board meeting, 22.11.22.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 were proposed by Cllr Pat Vaughan, seconded by Cllr Gary Hewson and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

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

### **2609 Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, 10.01.23.**

The minutes of the Board's Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed by Mr Peter Gilbert, seconded by Mr Ron Oxby and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

##### **2609.1 Proposed Budget Estimates for 2023/24 (minute 7 refers).**

The focus of the meeting was on the challenges in setting a financially balanced budget for 2023/24, particularly in the light of the increase in electricity costs, both the standing charges and the unit rate to an average of

30 pence/KWH from 01.10.22 from the previous average 12 pence/KWH [and a forecast increase to 40 pence/KWH from 01.10.23].

Officers had gone through cost pressures for 2023/24 and excluding electricity these could be contained at what would otherwise be a proposed 6.74% increase in the Penny Rate [which drives drainage rates and Special Levy for the 2 Councils]. This included insurances, plant and machinery, fuel uplift to budget, general inflation, pay, mobile phones, repairs & maintenance etc.

However, when the electricity price increase was included, based on an average rainfall year with an assumed reduction in pumped hours from 8,000 to 6,000 [not a wet year or a dry year], this requires a net budget increase of £291,295 on top of the £69k existing 2022/23 electricity budget. This impact could not be contained as a budget pressure and leads to the proposed 29.0% increase in the Penny Rate, a far higher increase than usual. A lengthy discussion followed at the Executive Committee on the assumptions for electricity usage in 2023/24 in Budget setting.

The impact of the proposed 29.0% increase in the penny rate was quantified in a tabled paper and, after land movements between 01.01.22 to 31.12.22 were overlayed, it resulted in an additional cost of £160,560 [28.98%] for the 347 drainage rate account holders, an additional £42,834 [29.0%] in Special Levy for City of Lincoln Council where there were no land movements and an additional £87,901 [31.50%] in Special Levy for NKDC including land movements. It was understood that some drainage rate payers and Councils pay to more than one IDB, and all known IDBs are increasing the Penny Rate by more than their recent average increases. The Councils had been advised of the potential 29.0% increase in W1st and 15.0% increase in the other 3 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards.

The Chief Executive had attended a meeting with Defra officials, ADA, the EA and some other IDB representatives in Doncaster on 30.11.22 to set out to Defra the impact of the OFGEM Charging Review on standing charges, the impact of increased unit rates for electricity usage at pumping stations and to lobby for some flexibility for the sector until the energy market stabilises, e.g., capital to revenue transfer or RFCCs to provide an IDB to EA precept holiday for 2023/24. There had to date been no response from Defra, officials being made aware at the meeting that IDBs would be setting their Penny Rates in late January and there would be potential political disquiet across the country.

The Anglian [Northern] RFCC had given a 30-minute agenda item about IDB electricity cost pressures and risk to Jane Froggatt & Peter Bateson of W4th on Friday, 27th January 2023 for a similar purpose. But this would be after the Penny Rate for 2023/24 was set in most IDBs.

After discussion, members supported the proposed Budget Estimates as tabled and were willing to recommend the proposed 29.0% increase in the Penny Rate to the Board on 24.01.23.

Members noted the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, and specifically the reasoning behind the recommended 29.00% increase in the Penny Rate.

### **2610 Joint Services Committee 12.12.22**

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and were received and NOTED by members.

#### ***MATTERS ARISING:***

There were no matters arising.

### **2611 Chief Executive's Report.**

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

#### **2611.1 Pay Award 2023/24.**

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay & Conditions Committee met on 10.10.22 to receive the staff side pay claim for 2023/24 and to negotiate a proposed pay settlement. The 4 Boards' representative on the Committee is Cllr Lance Pennell, Upper Witham member [supported by the Chief Executive]. The staff side and employer's side reached agreement as follows:

"To use the ONS Earnings 01 Average Weekly Earnings Indicator of Total Pay in Great Britain, using the provisional figure, as published in September, for the public sector, 12-month average [August of the previous year to July of the current year] of the single month changes [KAC8], % change year-on-year. This to be for a 2-year deal, with it continuing beyond, unless either party gives 12 months' notice to re-enter negotiations. In addition, for 2023/24 an unconsolidated payment of £1,500 will be paid in addition to the salary over 12 months".

Applying the formula as set out, it corresponded to a 2.1% uplift across all pay scales in the ADA Lincolnshire White Book of Terms & Conditions from 01st April 2023 plus a further sum of £1,500 as an unconsolidated sum. The reasons for the £1,500 were to recognise the historical nature of the indicator and that CPI inflation is running closer to 10% now, but that similarly neither party knows what KAC8 will be in September 2023 for the previous 12 months, so determining the pay settlement for 2024/25, and secondly to give a cash sum element to the pay award so that it targets a proportionately larger uplift to those staff on lower pay scales. The impact, for example, of the 2.1% recurrent salary uplift plus the £1,500 unconsolidated cash uplift for an Operative on Spine Point 15 is that basic pay rises from £25,824 in this year 2022/23 to £27,866 in 2023/24 [a 7.91% uplift, 2.1% of that being consolidated].

Employers agreed to take this pay settlement to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch for endorsement, and the Branch adopted the recommended pay settlement at its meeting on 20.10.22.

Staff side to the Pay Committee agreed to take the pay settlement to a UNISON ballot of members, which they did without recommendation of acceptance or refusal. The ballot results were communicated on 11.11.22, as a refusal of the proposed settlement [83% of those who voted having voted against].

As adoption or not of the ADA Branch pay settlement is a matter reserved to individual Boards, Boards were unable to approve the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay settlement at their November meetings. Given the staff side rejection of the pay settlement proposed, the 4 Boards were content in November to note that the pay settlement adopted by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch was adopted in principle by each Board, but that Lance Pennell and the Chief Executive would be involved in further discussions.

A meeting of the Employers' side of the Pay & Conditions Committee was held on Monday 05.12.22 to determine how to respond to the Unison ballot result, given no counterclaim had been received. In summary, it was agreed to propose a revised pay settlement still based on the agreed pay formula linked to changes over a rolling 12 months in Average Weekly Earnings in the Public Sector. This element of the offer, as per the original agreement remains at 2.1% for 2023/24, as a consolidated uplift across all salaries from 01.04.23. The unconsolidated sum proposed was increased from the previous £1,500 to £1,800, to be paid in 2 instalments of £900 in April and September 2023 salaries to every member of staff. This was in recognition of the current economic climate and cost pressures on all our staff, plus an attempt to pay a proportionately higher percentage sum overall to staff on lower pay scales.

A communication of this Employers' side revised pay settlement offer was sent out at noon on Tuesday 06.12.22 by all 7 relevant IDBs party to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Pay & Conditions Committee [i.e., our 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards, Witham Fourth District IDB, Black Sluice IDB and South Holland IDB]. This was sent by employers direct to all employees and to Unison.

The impact of the revised proposed pay settlement [2.1% + £1,800 unconsolidated] has been included in the joint services budget and proportionately in individual Board Budget Estimates for 2023/24.

It is understood that this revised pay offer is not accepted by UNISON, so at the date of writing there is no agreed pay settlement for 2023/24 and Lance Pennell and the Chief Executive continue with discussions.

#### 2611.2 Electricity Impact on IDBs & meeting With DEFRA, ADA & the EA on 30.11.22.

At the 4 November Board meetings, members were briefed on the significant cost pressure which increases in electricity prices present for IDBs nationally and specifically for each of our Witham & Humber Drainage Boards. The increase is on both the standing/daily charges the Boards have at 53 Pumping

Stations [at 47 sites] and in the daytime/night unit rates per/KwH. The Boards use ESPO as a framework contract, ESPO purchasing electricity on behalf of circa 2,000 largely public sector organisations like IDBs, Council and Schools. The current electricity provider is Total Gas and Power.

The 2022/23 budget for electricity across the 4 Drainage Boards totals £201,000 [NELDB £15k, UW £48k, W1st £69k and W3rd £69k]. This has generally been sufficient to fund usage in an 'average' rainfall year, the difference in cost for a wet year of heavy rainfall events generally being met from IDB Reserves.

Standing Charges for the Boards were stable prior to the OFGEM Targeted Charging Review. On 01.10.2019 the standing charges totalled £13,914 [NELDB £1,223, UW £3,877, W1st £5,219 and W3rd £3,595] and on 01.10.2020 standing charges totalled £15,580 [NELDB £1,521, UW £4,427, W1st £5,174 and W3rd £4,459].

The first significant increase in standing charges was from 01.10.2021, when they rose to £51,645 for the 4 IDBs [NELDB £4,679, UW £12,505, W1st £20,362 and W3rd £14,099]. The increase is compounded from the new price rates from 01.10.22 with standing charges now totalling £127,917 [NELDB £10,670, UW £28,820, W1st £54,623 and W3rd £33,803]. The impact of this means at least 49% of the electricity budget [79.2% in W1st] is consumed in fixed daily/standing charges at pumping stations, before a pump is switched on.

Unit rates have also increased from what was prior to 01.10.22 circa 12 pence per/KwH [there is some variation between pumping stations and between day and night rates- the pumps running where practicable between 00:00 and 07:00 hours]. The average unit rate is now 30 pence per/KwH, which is a considerable proportionate increase, although below market rate.

Advice from ESPO suggests that based on IDB electricity usage for an 'average year' in 2023/24 with 80% of that usage being in the 6 winter months of October 2023 to March 2024, the IDBs need to be increasing budgets markedly for 2023/24. This is coupled with a forecast further increase of circa 35% on unit rates from 01.10.23. So, the Boards need to budget at 40 pence per/KwH and for 80% of the 2023/24 assumed annual electricity usage at 40 pence/KwH with 20% of the assumed annual usage at the current 30 pence/KwH, and a further 10% increase in standing charges from 01.10.23.

The overall impact is that the 4 Boards need to establish electricity budgets for 2023/24 to plan for an average usage year and the revised standing charges. It would be unrealistic to budget for a wet year or indeed a dry year [the other 2 scenarios considered]. Summarised, the 4 Drainage Boards need to increase the 2022/23 current £201,000 total electricity budget to £880,960 [NELDB from £15,000 to £88,330, UW from £48,000 to £191,610, W1st from £69,000 to £381,740\* and W3rd from £69,000 to £219,280].

\*A revised pumped hours assumption has been made in W1st Estimates, to limit the electricity budget increase to £305,000, accepting the risk of doing so.

These required increases in electricity budgets for next year have considerable impact upon the Penny Rate [in the pound] for all 4 Drainage Boards, which in turn drives increases in the Special Levies paid by Councils and the Drainage Rates paid by the 1616 owners/occupiers of land in the drainage districts [271 in NELDB, 443 in W3rd, 347 in W1st and 555 in UW].

As context, 1% on each Board's Penny Rate generates different levels of income to the Board in question. In NELDB 1% is £6,480.62, in UW £12,240.73, in W1st £9,807.00 and in W3rd 1% equates to £10,927.36 income.

The increase in electricity prices and impact on budgets has caused concern within IDBs and with Councils curtailed to a 3% Council Tax increase cap [or 5% for Upper Tier Authorities where they provide Social Care]. Considerable political interest and lobbying is underway.

Following the ADA Annual Conference on 09.11.22 where the significance of this issue for IDBs was raised, the Chief Executive attended an ADA convened meeting with the EA and 3 Defra colleagues on 30.11.22. The issue was outlined and discussed as too were requests for flexibility/assistance nationally or using existing RFCC mechanisms, e.g., providing at least a one-year IDB to EA precept 'holiday' for 2023/24 which would total £516,030 for the 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards [NELDB £161,019, UW £166,826, W1st £83,031 and W3rd £105,154], and would total £2.1 million across Lincolnshire IDBs. No commitment to support was given at the meeting by Defra colleagues, but the Briefing Note we provided will be shared within Defra/DULUC. The importance and timing of the required flexibilities was stressed, prior to IDBs setting their increases in the Penny Rates in late January 2023 Board meetings. No response has been received despite ADA chasing this.

Locally, the IDBs have secured a half-hour slot on the Anglian [Northern] RFCC agenda for Friday 27.01.23 and the Chief Executive will present the case there [although our 4 Board meetings will have been completed by then].

The Chief Executive's report and update were received, discussed and NOTED.

### **2612 Corporate Risk Register.**

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

The purpose of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) report is to provide the Board and the Public with an update of the Corporate Risk Register for Witham and Humber Drainage Boards, to demonstrate the control measures in place for mitigation and ongoing management, and to acknowledge where risk is controlled to a low/ medium level and therefore no-longer is deemed as a 'corporate risk' but 'business as usual'.

The CRR is reviewed at periodic intervals. However, it is a live document, reviewed as required.

The CRR is brought to the Board meetings to ensure that the Board Members are aware of the strategic risks which affect the four statutory Boards within the Witham and Humber group.

Witham and Humber Drainage Boards continue to have a robust risk management process, which enables consideration of external and internal risks.

By establishing a systematic approach to identification, assessment and management of risk, WHDBs intend to continually improve the Boards' governance, increase accountability and enhance overall performance.

This report and the CRR provides members with a strategic oversight of the corporate risk management process and the key risks to which the WHDB group is exposed.

The 4 Boards' Corporate Risk Register details those risks that are significant enough to warrant management and or oversight by a member of the Management Team. Specific risk control measures are in place to reduce the likelihood and/or impact of a risk occurrence where this is felt to be practicable /appropriate.

A new layout of the CRR is in use, which changes the lay out but does not change the specific information within the risk register. As part of the review, it is recognised that risk is inherent within all public body organisations, and where the risk is low or medium, these risks have been removed from the published report to ensure that only the key strategic risks are included.

Low and Medium risk have been removed as the Senior Management Team (SMT) manage the low and medium risk robustly within their within their teams. The Risks 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 12 have been removed from the Strategic/ public risk register, due to being low and medium risk.

Board Members reviewed the Risk Register and approved:

- the new lay out of the Risk Register.
- removal of the low and medium risks was accepted by the Board to allow the scrutiny of strategic high and very high risks to remain the overarching consideration.

### **2613 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.11.22 to 31.12.22.**

The Schedule of Expenditure for the two months' period from 01<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance & Governance.

Gross expenditure totalled £184,792.69 or, net of reclaimable £11,426.16 VAT, **£173,366.53**. Of this, £1,951.85 was recharged to other bodies. It was emphasized that this is the invoices paid in the two months period, and some invoices relating to the period may not be included [e.g., electricity costs at pumping stations are invoiced a month in arrears].

There was nothing highlighted to or by members on this occasion.

Members received and NOTED the expenditure incurred between 01.11.22 and 31.12.22.



## **2614 Financial Performance Report 2022/23 to Month 9, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.**

The Director of Finance & Governance presented the Financial Performance Report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, month 9 of 2022/23. A summary table of the overall income and expenditure position was presented, as follows:

	<b>2022/23 Budget</b>	<b>Profiled Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	(1,126,247)	(1,092,274)	(1,220,892)	(128,618)
Board & General Admin	16,870	12,154	8,954	(3,200)
One Off Schemes	35,000	4,200	47,727	43,527
Conservation	1,750	496	273	(223)
Depot	17,350	16,212	19,742	3,530
Drains	403,842	400,792	396,335	(4,457)
Pumping Stations	201,730	120,282	149,825	29,543
Joint Admin/Witham House	109,408	57,107	61,903	4,796
Consents & Enforcement	10,753	0	0	0
Director of Operations/Engineers	77,484	69,570	60,897	(8,673)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	40,000	0	77,898	77,898
PWLB	27,370	27,039	26,617	(422)
Rechargeable Works	100,000	82,915	79,813	(3,102)
EA Precept	84,690	84,690	83,031	(1,659)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)				0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	(83,636)	(103,285)	(19,649)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(300,453)</b>	<b>(311,162)</b>	<b>(10,709)</b>

The Board was showing a modest positive position against budget of (£10,709) as at 31.12.22.

On drainage rates income, of [£568,250.30] due to the Board in 2022/23 the collection rate was 98.6% as at 31.12.22, compared to 96.3% at the same point in the previous year. After adjustments, [£7,820.39] outstanding income remains due to the Board.

Special Levy payments from NKDC and City of Lincoln Council had been received in full for 2022/23, this totalling ((£427k) for the second tranche of payments in November 2022.

Highland Water claims have been submitted to and paid by the Environment Agency for the balance owed to the Board on the 2021/22 actual claim with a further balance of (£7,944) and for the 2022/23 Estimated claim of (£26,700). The EA has paid 80% of the estimated claim for 2022/23 (£21,360) along with the balance on the 2021/22 actual claim (£7,944), making a total income received by the Board of (£29,304).

The refurbishment works at Metheringham Pumping Station continue, totalling £168,000 with FDGIA grant awarded of £163,000. The remaining funding of £5k will be resourced by the Board, as previously approved. The (£163,000) had been received in previous financial years to undertake these works. Most of the spend has now been incurred, with the replacement concrete steps and 2 flap valves being the final two elements of works to be completed.

The catchment study of Billingham & Timberland continues, and results will be outlined to the Board in due course when the work is complete.

The Telemetry scheme has also been agreed by the EA and the grant aid funding for Witham First DIDB of up to £149,750 is awaited. Site visits have been completed and hopefully the roll out will be completed in this financial year [a total of 39 pumping station sites will have telemetry upgrades across W1st, W3rd and UW IDBs].

Electricity was a significant cost pressure in this financial year. This Board has a budget of £69k for the Pumping Station electricity and to date £56.5k has been spent. This is only for the first 8 months, up to the end of November 2022. Spend equates to nearly 82% of the annual budget for 2022/23. Both standing daily charges and unit usage rates increased from 01.10.22 and spend is escalating on electricity in the last few months of the year.

The inflationary pressures that the country is currently experiencing are affecting many of the Board's costs. RPI was 14% [CPI 9.3%] in November 2022. Electricity, fuel, plant and vehicle maintenance, insurance, mobile phones, pay are all contributing to escalating costs. Where possible, these are locked into contracts so not all the impact is being felt currently, but it will feed through into future costs putting undue pressure on the final few months of 2022/23 and next year's budgets. Additionally, the availability of materials, spare parts and suitable companies to carry out works is causing additional downtime and delays.

The Bank Balances as at 31.12.22 were set out as follows:

<b>Bank Balances &amp; Investments</b>	
<b>As at 31st December 2022</b>	
Natwest	£ 47,317.03
Nationwide Instant Access	£ 935,093.40
Nationwide 90 Day Notice	£ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 982,410.43</b>
<b>PWLB Loan - Balance Outstanding</b>	
	<b>2.41%</b> <b>£ 110,010.40</b>
<i>Original loan £354,480. Loan period 14.5 years from 17/12/2012. Maturity date 17th June 2027 Repayments made 17th June and 17th December each year.</i>	

Members NOTED the 2022/23 financial performance for the 9 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **2615 Capital Programme from 2023/24.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by Georgina Nichols, Capital Planning Manager.

Historically, the 3 Witham & Humber Boards with plant and machinery have annually set and funded a Plant Programme for the future purchase and replacement of plant and

machinery. However, the Boards have not had a wider Capital Programme, to include other assets especially Pumping Stations.

The 4 Boards jointly fund a post of Capital Programme Manager (CPM) (Georgina Nichols) along with Witham Fourth, Black Sluice and South Holland IDB's to assist the 7 Boards in developing Flood Defence Grant In Aid (FDGIA) schemes, business cases and grant submissions including calculating the cost/benefits/potential grant availability of any potential schemes.

Since taking up post in June 2021, Georgina has been working with the 4 Boards' Officers to develop a Capital Programme for the 4 Boards' Pumping Stations. This has required an assessment of each pumping station in terms of what works are required at each site, whether that be new control panels, pump/motor refurbishment, weedscreen installation/refurbishment, etc. The Operations and Engineering teams prioritised from their perspectives which sites were most in need of works and which, due to the Boards' investment in pump lifts, roof replacements, ongoing maintenance, etc, were in less need of works.

This work is based upon refurbishment of the existing pumping stations and not replacement. However, should additional funding/alternative third party funding become available then the replacement option will be considered at the Outline Business Case stage. Once the scope of works had been assessed and quantified, Georgina then completed the EA's Partnership Funding Calculator for each site- which assesses what grant is available from the EA through its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant in Aid programme. This is nationally a £5.2bn 6-year programme which all Flood Risk Management Authorities (FRMA's) can access.

The calculator works on what assets will be protected by any proposed improvement scheme, including dwellings/homes, business premises, critical infrastructure, and to a lesser degree agricultural land. Each asset has monetary benefits attributed to it based on its value to the nation, so the more assets protected, particularly those that attract the higher benefits such as homes/dwellings then the more grant is available. Due to the purpose and locality of some land drainage pumping stations it means that those that provide protection for the more urban areas can be 100% funded, but those that protect only a few dwellings and protect mostly agricultural land will only receive partial funding or no funding. Any shortfall in grant needs to be funded by the Boards and/or alternative third-party funding.

A complication to this process is that these benefits can only be used once and not double counted, by one FRMA for the period over which the scheme is funded. So, if the EA develop a scheme which protects some properties, with a funding life of say 20 years, then those same properties cannot be used to generate benefits for an IDB scheme in the same location in that period. Therefore, the Boards are often negotiating a 'share of benefits' to ensure large EA schemes do not use up all the benefits in an area where the Boards may wish to progress a scheme. Within Witham 1st and 3rd districts the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project is in the process of apportioning all the benefits within the project area to each individual flood risk management asset so projects can be developed, and benefits are not double counted.

Once the potential Grant in Aid had been assessed for each pumping station Officers were able to combine the likely cost, potential grant available and assess the potential shortfall in funding for each site. Where pumping stations operate on the same catchments, whether

due to being a 'booster station' or due to having links between the catchments, then these have been assessed as a single scheme.

The schemes were then prioritised on a financial (affordability) basis with those schemes attracting 100% Grant in Aid being in the short to medium term for delivery, with those with less grant funding being in the latter part (medium to long term) of the programme. Discussions then took place to align the Operational/Engineering priorities with the Financial/affordability priority to enable the team to generate a proposed Capital Programme for each Board. Therefore, the programme proposed is a combination of need and affordability.

At the JSC meeting on 12.12.22 Members received a presentation on the outcome of this work and supported a proposed programme to go forward to the January Board meetings for each Board. Each Board is going to need to make an annual financial contribution towards these schemes from within their own Board's Estimates, which may not be required in the earlier years of the programme but will be required to build a sufficient financial 'pot' to service those schemes which are not fully funded in the later part of the programme. These annual contributions have been built into the revenue estimates from 2023/24 onwards, in order to achieve the delivery of the programme.

If approved by each Board, these contributions will provide a programme of works to be developed into Business Cases over the coming years which will be coordinated by the CPM. Additionally, a bid has been submitted to and supported by the RFCC, to provide funding for a Project Delivery post to help project manage and deliver the schemes that are approved.

To achieve these pumping station capital refurbishments, the Boards will need to make an annual contribution to their own programmes. Currently this is at £17k for NELDB, £50k for UW, £35k for W1st and £50k for W3rd (plus utilising some existing reserves). These amounts have been included in the proposed Estimates for each Board 2023/24, which followed on the agenda.

Members noted the programme and supported the Capital Programme for pumping stations refurbishment over the next 20 years.

### **2616 Revenue & Capital Estimates for 2023/24, including Joint Services Budget.**

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

Detailed work had been undertaken to review the actual income and expenditure in 2022/23 as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Q3). This position has then been used to inform the budgets for 2023/24, together with any known cost pressures [particularly electricity costs in 2023/24], necessary developments, capital costs and known savings.

The summary Estimates position was presented, comparing the 2022/23 approved Budget to the 2023/24 proposed Budget and showing the variances.

The summary of the Joint Services arrangements was presented for information and as recommended for approval by the 4 Boards' JSC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. These costs have been allocated between the 4 Boards on the agreed proportions of 30% each to Upper Witham IDB and Witham Third DIDB and 20% each to Witham First DIDB and North

East Lindsey IDB.

Additionally, this year, a Capital Programme for the refurbishment of the 4 Boards' Pumping Stations has been developed, as just discussed, including potential grant funding available from the Flood Defence Grant in Aid [FDGIA] resource funded by DEFRA via the EA.

### Revenue Budgets 2023/24.

Preparing the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Estimates has been challenging, given there are significant cost pressures which are externally driven and outside the control of the Boards, especially electricity costs. The 112 IDBs nationally are experiencing similar cost pressures and there has been much discussion with our membership body, ADA [the Association of Drainage Authorities] and with neighbouring IDBs about the impact of these cost pressures. Emails have also been exchanged with all Special Levy paying councils, to advise them of the particularly challenging financial pressures for 2023/24.

The main cost pressure this year is from the significant increase in electricity costs and the impact this has on our operational pumping stations, which are all electric powered pumps. A core part of this overall increase is the large increase in standing charges, as previously reported to the Board, which will be incurred whether the pumps are running or not.

In discussions with our energy framework provider Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation [ESPO], the following assumptions have been included in these estimates:

- Unit prices have been calculated @30 pence per unit (KWH) for 6 months (01<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023), on 20% of assumed usage and 40 pence per unit (KWH) for October 2023 to March 2024 on an 80% assumed usage.
- Standing Charges have been used as current for 6 months 01<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, and a 10% increase from 01<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- Assumed usage is based upon historical usage; modelling 'dry', 'average' and 'wet' years. An 'average' usage level has been used for the purpose of these estimates, which is a significant risk to the Board if we experience a wet year.
- Additional Highland Water contributions from the EA have been assumed on those pumping stations that attract a Highland Water allocation.

A summary of the above assumptions is shown in the following table:

Pumping Station Electricity								
	Usage KWH	Usage Cost	Standing and Other Charges	Total Electricity Cost	less Current Budget 2022/23	Net Increase in Electricity Budget	Additional Highland Water	Net Additional Cost
<b>NEL</b>	200,000	£ 77,000	£ 13,000	£ 90,000	£ 15,000	£ 75,000	-£ 8,500	£ 66,500
<b>UW</b>	400,000	£ 152,000	£ 40,000	£ 192,000	£ 48,000	£ 144,000	-£ 35,000	£ 109,000
<b>W1</b>	600,000	£ 228,000	£ 77,000	£ 305,000	£ 69,000	£ 236,000	-£ 10,800	£ 225,200
<b>W3</b>	450,000	£ 171,000	£ 49,000	£ 220,000	£ 69,000	£ 151,000	-£ 46,000	£ 105,000
	<b>1,650,000</b>	<b>£ 628,000</b>	<b>£ 179,000</b>	<b>£ 807,000</b>	<b>£ 201,000</b>	<b>£ 606,000</b>	<b>-£ 100,300</b>	<b>£ 505,700</b>

Additionally, electricity budgets at other sites (depots/offices) have been increased.

Other cost pressures due to inflation, market changes and contractual arrangements were outlined, including:

- **Pay.** A pay award of 2.1% plus a £1,800 unconsolidated lump sum has been proposed by the Lincolnshire Pay & Conditions Committee but to date this has not yet been agreed by the Unions representing the employees. However, this is the pay costs increase assumed in the proposed 2023/24 budgets.
- **Insurance costs.** The Boards are facing very significant challenges in procuring suitable insurance cover at realistic prices. We have assumed the renewal costs budget for July 2023 will be the costs as of July 2022, plus 10%. We are also looking at detail into our insurance arrangements with our advisors, The Risk Factor.
- **Fuel.** Last year the fuel budgets were prepared on an assumed £1.08/litre for white diesel, also assuming all plant would need to move to white diesel from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2022. A last-minute national reprieve was achieved and so the bulk of plant has remained on red diesel. However, the cost of red diesel has risen above this £1.08/litre budgeted and white diesel costs are significantly higher. Therefore, the budgets for white diesel have been increased for 2023/24.
- **Repairs & Maintenance (R&M)/Servicing.** Proposed budgets have factored in some further increases on R&M/servicing budgets for 2023/24, to reflect the reality of the increasing costs we are experiencing.
- **General inflation.** RPI [All Services] was 14% in November 2022 [CPI 9.3%], and we are seeing increased costs in many areas of the 4 Boards' spend which will feed into ICT, mobile phone and other CPI based contracts from April 2023 onwards.
- **Pensions, as follows:**

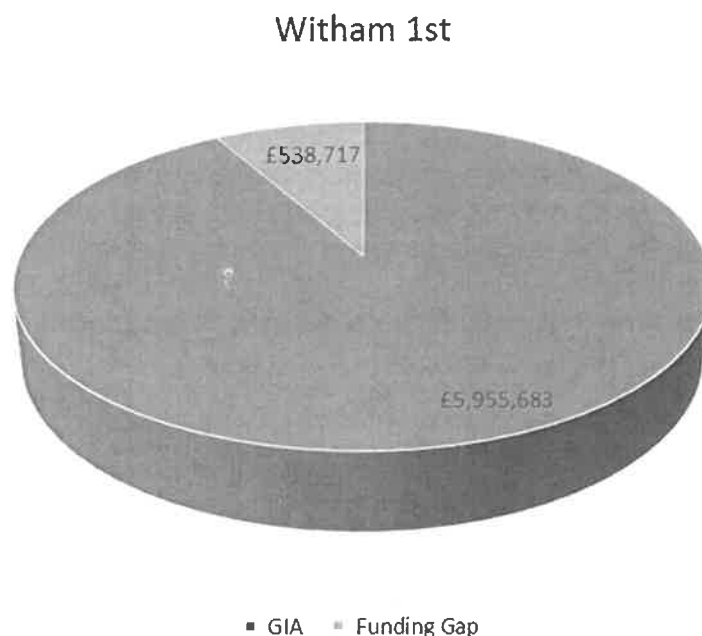
<b>Employer Pension Contribution Rates</b>				
	<b>NEL</b>	<b>UW</b>	<b>W1</b>	<b>W3</b>
<b>Current (2022/23)</b>				
Primary %	20.7%	19.7%	20.5%	18.9%
Secondary %			-1.2%	
Secondary £	£ 1,000	£ 54,000	£ -	£ 27,000
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>23.7%</b>
<b>2023/24</b>				
Primary %	25.1%	24.1%	30.1%	23.5%
Secondary %	-4.4%		-10.8%	
Secondary £		£ 11,000	£ -	
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
<b>2024/25</b>				
Primary %	25.1%	24.1%	30.1%	23.5%
Secondary %	-4.4%		-10.8%	
Secondary £		£ 11,000	£ -	
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
<b>2025/26</b>				
Primary %	25.1%	24.1%	30.1%	23.5%
Secondary %	-4.4%		-10.8%	
Secondary £		£ 11,000	£ -	
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>

#### Capital Programme 2023/24 Onwards.

From the Flood Defence Grant in Aid [FDGIA] funding assessments undertaken for each Pumping Station/site; the key outcomes derived so far for Witham First are:

- 12 pumping stations [not 13, 1 discounted]

- 9 PS fully funded.
- 3 PS Partially funded.
- 564 houses protected.
- 99 non-residential properties protected.
- 11,646ha agricultural land
- 5 electricity substations
- 1 sewage treatment works.
- Roads A15 & A153



The outcome of these funding assessments has then been developed into a Capital Programme, scheduling each site over the next 20+ years. Each site has been assessed based on its Asset Condition priority, Affordability (GIA funding available) and Deliverability (staff and other resources), as outlined earlier.

In order to deliver this Pumping Station Capital Programme in the medium term (10 years) then the Board needs to make an annual contribution from its Revenue Budget to the programme to make it affordable and deliverable. Therefore, in the proposed Revenue Estimates a contribution of £35k per annum has been provided from 2023/24 onwards, utilising the previous budget for One-Off schemes.

Summary of Revenue Budget Proposals 2023/24.

After much discussion between Officers and Members of the Executive Committee at the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, a balanced budget position can be achieved for 2023/24 based on these assumptions and a recommended **29.00%** penny rate increase. This is broadly made up of **6.7%** for all inflationary issues listed excluding electricity, and **23.0%** solely for the impact of the electricity increases. Land movements equate to **-0.7%**.

As context the following table sets out the 'penny rate' increases that the Boards have set in recent years:

<b>Historic Penny Rate Increases</b>									
<b>Increase in penny rate</b>									
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NEL	0.00%	0.00%	2.50%	0.00%	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%	5.00%	<b>15.00%</b>
UW	1.75%	1.50%	1.25%	2.00%	2.00%	2.40%	2.50%	6.25%	<b>15.00%</b>
W1	1.75%	1.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.00%	2.50%	6.50%	<b>29.00%</b>
W3	1.75%	1.25%	0.75%	2.00%	0.50%	2.00%	2.50%	5.00%	<b>15.00%</b>
<b>Average increase since 2015/16</b>									
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NEL	0.00%	0.00%	0.83%	0.63%	0.70%	0.92%	1.07%	1.56%	<b>3.06%</b>
UW	1.75%	1.63%	1.50%	1.63%	1.70%	1.82%	1.91%	2.46%	<b>3.85%</b>
W1	1.75%	1.63%	1.08%	0.81%	0.65%	1.38%	1.54%	2.16%	<b>5.14%</b>
W3	1.75%	1.50%	1.25%	1.44%	1.25%	1.38%	1.54%	1.97%	<b>3.42%</b>

Whilst the proposed penny rate increase is more significant than in previous years, without this the Board will not be able to set a balanced budget and secure its financial stability. Additionally, there will be the land movements from agricultural land to 'other developed land' under the Land Drainage Act 1991, which impact on each individual Special Levy paying Council. These land movements were outlined in a separate report today.

#### Funds and Reserves.

Members have an agreed policy of holding a general 'Revenue Reserve' for emergencies of 10% to 15% of turnover, and the balance held in 'earmarked reserves' for requirements.

It was proposed the fund balances be allocated on the following basis:

Reserve	Actual 2022/23 b/f £	Estimated 2022/23 c/f £	Estimated 2023/24 c/f £
Revenue Reserve*	(141,533)	(166,533)	(191,533)
Pumping Stations	(57,163)	(65,002)	(72,841)
Committed Sums	(32,670)	(32,670)	(32,670)
One Off Projects**	(81,744)	(0)	(0)
Capital Programme Funding			
Plant & Machinery	(260,241)	(349,548)	(274,916)
Pumping Station Refurbishments	(0)	(0)	(35,000)
Balance	(573,351)	(613,753)	(536,960)

\*Assumes budgeted year end surplus of £25k for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

\*\* Assumes all FGDGIA schemes completed in financial year

#### Revenue Reserve.

This is the general 'contingency' reserve and will be utilised for any unexpected or emergency purposes which cannot be contained in the revenue budget. This assumes a



balanced position on the Revenue Account at the end of this financial year 2021/22.

The 2022/23 balance is estimated to be **13.9%** of estimated turnover, so is within the Board's approved Policy on Reserves of 10% to 15% of turnover. This will be reviewed again when the actual position for 2022/23 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 year-end is known, as part of the Outturn report.

#### Pumping Stations.

This reserve receives the depreciation charges from the Automatic Weedscreen Cleaners (AWC's). This fund will fund future one-off emergency works at Pumping Stations.

#### Commuted Sums.

This reserve contains commuted sums received by the Board to be utilised to meet future maintenance costs of the scheme to which the sum received relates.

#### One Off Projects.

This reserve holds the balance of any FDGIA monies received and not yet fully utilised (e.g., Metheringham PS Scheme, Telemetry Replacement, etc). It is assumed all schemes will be completed in 2022/23 but if not, any balances will be held in this Reserve until required.

#### Plant and Machinery (Capital).

This reserve funds future purchases of Plant and Equipment and depreciation charges and sales income replenish this fund on an annual basis to fund future purchases. The reserve increases in 2022/23 then reduces in 2023/24 due to the agreed purchase of the replacement Atlas 140W wheeled excavator.

#### Pumping Station Refurbishment (Capital).

As detailed above an annual contribution needs to be made to fund the Pumping Station Refurbishment Capital Programme. These contributions will be held in this reserve until required.

Members were reminded that they can reallocate resources between these reserves at any time, should the need arise.

#### **Members AGREED to:**

- **approve the Pumping Station Capital Programme as set out.**
- **note the Plant & Machinery Capital Programme, as previously approved.**
- **approve the financially balanced Estimates for 2023/24, based upon a 29.00% increase in the penny rate.**
- **note the outcome of this report will determine the level of penny rate to be set in the following separate report on the Agenda.**

#### **2617 Penny Rate, Drainage Rates and Special Levies.**

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

Members were presented with Annual Values that need to be agreed as part of the formal setting of the Drainage Rates and Special Levies, before 15.02.23 for the financial year 2023/24.

### Annual Values.

The Annual Values must be formally approved by the Board. These start with those brought forward from last year's rate setting as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, with movements during the calendar year required for land that has been developed or is no longer used for agricultural purposes. This land transfers out of Drainage Rates and is allocated to the Special Levy for the appropriate Council.

The Annual Values as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 were:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Drainage Rates	309,938	2,003,283	2,313,221
City of Lincoln	1,418,032	0	1,418,032
North Kesteven DC	831,972	738,840	1,570,812
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,559,942</b>	<b>2,742,123</b>	<b>5,302,065</b>
Differential Rating	40%		
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>	<b>1,023,977</b>	<b>2,742,123</b>	<b>3,766,100</b>

A revised developed land transfer rate was agreed by the Board on 15.11.16 of £8,063.73 per hectare. The land movements between 01.01.22 and 31.12.22 that require transfer from Drainage Rates to Special Levy are summarised as follows:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Drainage Rates	(59)	(227)	(286)
City of Lincoln	0	0	0
North Kesteven DC	4,951	18,780	23,731
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,892</b>	<b>18,553</b>	<b>23,445</b>
Differential Rating	40%		
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>18,553</b>	<b>20,510</b>

There were no land movements affecting City of Lincoln Council's Special Levy, all related to North Kesteven District Council.

This results in the following Annual Values as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Drainage Rates	309,879	2,003,056	2,312,935
City of Lincoln	1,418,032	0	1,418,032
North Kesteven DC	836,923	757,620	1,594,543
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,564,834</b>	<b>2,760,676</b>	<b>5,325,510</b>
Differential Rating	40%		
<b>Adjusted Totals</b>	<b>1,025,934</b>	<b>2,760,676</b>	<b>3,786,610</b>

### 'Penny Rates'

The following 'penny rates' will be applicable if the **29.0%** increase proposed is agreed:

	<b>Sub District 1</b>	<b>Sub District 2</b>
	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>
Current	10.4161	26.0402

Proposed (+29.0%)	13.4368	33.5919
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This will increase the net amount of income to the Board generated from Drainage Rates from £553,942 to £714,502 (+£160,560).

#### Special Levies.

The changes will have the following impact on Special Levies, including the rebasing of the Annual Values for the land transfers for each of the two Councils:

	City of Lincoln Council	North Kesteven District Council	Total
	£	£	£
Current	147,703.63	279,054.43	426,758.06
Proposed	190,538.12	366,954.75	557,492.87
Difference	42,834.49	87,900.32	130,734.81
Increase	29.00%	31.50%	30.63%

In summary, income to the Board increases by a net total of £291,295 (being an increase of £130,735 in Special Levy and a net increase in Drainage Rates of £160,560, after the transfer of agricultural land to the category of 'other developed land').

#### **Members AGREED:**

1. The transfer of land from Drainage Rates to Special Levy as set out be approved, at the 15.11.16 Board's approved transfer rate of £8,063.73 per hectare.
2. The land valuations as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 upon which Drainage Rates and Special Levies are calculated is set at £5,325,510 (£3,786,610 after 40% differential rating is applied on sub-district 1).
3. The 'penny rate' is increased by 29.0% from 10.4161p to 13.4368p [in the pound] for sub-district 1 and from 26.0402p to 33.5919p for sub-district 2 of the drainage district.
4. The Special Levies for 2023/24 be agreed for each of the 2 Councils as:
 

a. City of Lincoln Council	£190,538.12
b. North Kesteven District Council	£366,954.75
5. The Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the 'Rate Book', apply the seal of the Board and publicise the revised penny rates, estimated Drainage Rates and Special Levies before 15.02.23.

#### 2618 Health and Safety Update.

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

No Cope Safety visits had occurred since the last Board report. All 2023 visits have been planned, with the contract renewal due in August 2023.

No near miss reports had been submitted.

Annual training has been completed for all staff:

- Support Staff: Fire Awareness, including use of fire extinguishers and manual handling training.
- Operatives: Fire Awareness, including use of fire extinguishers; manual handling training; confined spaces and working at height.
- Mental Health First Aider Training: Sarah Walden and Leila Quirk have completed.
- SHOC training: Annual refreshers, including contractors [Carnaby's] at NEL. New starters to the Board have received SHOC training – Nick Downing and Leila Quirk.

Ownership details on the access bridge to Ringmoor Pumping Station are still being investigated (ascertaining ownership via the Environment Agency). EA colleagues have stated that this bridge is a riparian responsibility and we have asked repeatedly for the EA's legal department to confirm this to the Board's officers.

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

### **2619 Environment Update.**

A report prepared by the GIS and Environment Officer had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

As a public body, under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), Internal Drainage Boards must have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of normal functions such as policy and decision-making. 'Conserving biodiversity' may include enhancing, restoring, or protecting a population or habitat. An IDB has a legal duty to protect and enhance the environment, set out in a wide range of legislation.

There were no recommendations to the Board on this occasion.

Members received and NOTED the Environment Report.

### **2620 Operations Report.**

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

The 2022 annual maintenance programme is expected to be completed around mid to late January, and Operatives will move straight into the winter works programme. Additionally, the EA requested a quote for 850 metres of flailing by excavator as PSCA works on their Queen Dyke and Dorrington Catchwater [where there were bank breaches on main river in June and November 2019 respectively]. The quotation of £4,356.20 has been accepted by the EA and this work will be undertaken before the end of February.

The new Atlas 140W wheeled excavator is still on course for delivery early in the new financial year 2023/24.

Regarding Nocton Pumping Station, the pump has now been reinstated and is working well.

Roger Maidens retired on 07.12.22 after over 19 years as Land Drainage Operative with the Board. Shaun (Billy) Reddish has taken up the substantive role on the John Deere tractor flail combination. Roger had a small retirement lunch at the Ship inn, Billingham and his chosen retirement gift was presented.

Officers have been given an informal indication by the EA that the 4 Boards are likely to be asked to undertake a similar level of PSCA summer maintenance works in 2023/24 as in this last year, except the EA will be taking back in-house the obstruction runs the Boards have been undertaking on their behalf. Quotations will therefore be submitted for this work following Board meetings, with the aim of agreeing this well before the first April Health & Safety cuts. In addition, the IDBs have recently been asked by the EA to quote for additional summer maintenance for this coming summer, mostly tractor/flail work and additional handwork [not weed-cutting excavator work]. If we are given confirmation by the EA that they wish to commission this additional work, it equates to work to an estimated value of £105,006.79 for Upper Witham, £38,870.00 for Witham first and £1,380 for Witham Third [the actual/ recovery costs may differ].

There are quotes submitted to undertake work for other third parties. Upper Witham currently have quotations to the value of £59,268.33 and Witham Third has quotations to the value of £3,554.40. We are awaiting confirmation on these works.

Once the volume of these additional works to be commissioned is known, officers will be able to plan the delivery of the works in terms of Operatives and plant, as this is a considerable additional workload to absorb, and it is commissioned on only a short-term basis. The priority remains to complete the 4 Boards' own work on adopted & scheduled watercourses, as funded by drainage rate payers and Special Levy paying Councils.

Members received and NOTED the Operations Report and update.

### **2621 Engineering Report.**

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

#### **Telemetry.**

An opportunity arose following successful FDGiA grant funding schemes for other Boards within Lincolnshire to upgrade Telemetry systems. Georgina Nichols, Capital Programme Manager for our 4 IDBs and 3 other Lincolnshire Boards, has successfully gained Flood Defence Grant in Aid for the three Boards: to the value of £98,353 for Upper Witham IDB, £125,625 for Witham 1st DIDB and £93,750 for Witham 3rd DIDB.

The system being implemented is from Xylem, a multinational company including the division that was formally known as Flygt. The system is the web based 'VTScada' installed successfully in NELDB pumping stations and several other stations across the Witham Boards.

The previous generation server based 'AquaView' system is currently used for existing Upper Witham stations with telemetry. Two Witham 3rd stations and one Witham 1st station will require upgrades for the equipment on site to enable communication to the web-based

system. All other stations across the Boards will require new equipment picking up existing telemetry ready provision where available and new connections as required.

Following the formal confirmation being received from the EA, initial site visits have taken place with Xylem to finalise the units and equipment required at the total of 39 stations. Some information has been received and further site visits have taken place and further information is expected soon.

#### Metheringham Fen Pumping Station (FD-1143-2014-PRO)

This station has attracted FDGiA monies allocated via the EA in the sum of £163,000, subject to a contribution from the Board of a further £5,000 as approved at the June 2020 meeting. These monies were used to replace or refurbish the elements of the site as listed:

- i. Replace existing MCC (pump control panel)
- ii. Replace outfall flap valves.
- iii. Refurbish automated weed screen cleaner.
- iv. Health & Safety improvements including fencing, site lighting and steps.

The new steps have been installed and the new outfall flaps will be delivered and installed soon. This will then complete the scheme.

#### Billingham Pumping Station and Timberland Pumping Station (FD-5336-2020-PRO)

Following the discussions with JBA regarding the modelling outputs the modelers are updating the baseline model and scenarios, we will be meeting to discuss the outputs of this at the end of January.

The economic benefits of the assets are being calculated as part of the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project, which is seeking to consider all flood risk management assets that protect people and property within the flood cell. We have been in discussion with the EA to determine the assets and the individual and the relative importance of each asset. The results of this work are expected in March 2023 when we will be able to determine the amount of GIA the project can attract.

The Outline Business Case is being developed and option selection will take place when the benefits are known in March 2023.

#### The River Slea Flood Resilience Project (FD-6209-2022-GEN)

The EA have started a potential project to manage flood risk on the River Slea between Sleaford and Haverholme.

Further information is available on this webpage on Citizen Space:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/river-slea-flood-resilience-project/>

#### Lower River Witham Resilience Review & Billingham Catchment System Review (FD-5336-2020-PRO)

Work to complete the hydraulic modelling of the lower Witham system continues and is due for completion in March / April 2023. In the meantime, officers of the Board are meeting with the EA, and their consultants, to discuss maximising benefits that may be available to claim

as part of any future FDGiA bids. Officers met with the EA on 5th December 2022 to discuss the allocation of benefits available within the catchment area to all risk management authorities hoping to attract Grant in Aid. The EA is proposing a method that may provide sufficient benefits to enable all authorities to receive sufficient grant monies to allow improvement works to be undertaken at many of the Boards assets.

Whilst this review is designed to address the long-term future of the system, its current condition and short-term work programme is of more concern. The reasons for this concern will become evident should the system be exposed to similar rainfall and catchment conditions as those experienced in Autumn 2019 and early 2020.

The Board's officers continue to raise issues of concern relating to the system's condition and ability to convey water with the EA and its consultants.

The EA have a web page for the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/lower-witham-flood-resilience-project/>

Upper Witham Strategy Review.

This is due to start soon, and we are waiting for an invitation from the EA to engage with the project [we are advised to date it has been an internal EA review]. No further updates to report.

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

### **2601 Planning and Consultations Report.**

The Planning and Consultations Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

Issues highlighted to members were as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>22/1685/ADVICE</b>                   | <b>Erection of a three-bedroom semi-detached dwelling. Eagles Nest Farm House Tattershall Bridge Road Tattershall Bridge</b>   |
| <b>FD-6284-2022-PLN</b>                 | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board area.<br><br>The Board would Object to the proposals. The site is in Zone 2/3 on the Environment Agency Flood Maps and at flood risk, NKDC Policy does not permit dwellings within the flood plain.<br><br>It is noted the drawings show a pair of semi-detached dwellings.  |
| <b>22/1721/FUL</b>                      | <b>Demolition of existing dwelling and commercial buildings and erection of 2 no. buildings with associated landscaping, car parking, turning area and alterations to access.</b>  |
| <b>FD-6285-2022-PLN</b>                 | <b>Land At Five Mile Lane Washingborough Lincoln LN4 1AF</b><br><br>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is within the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board area.<br><br>The <b>Objects</b> to the proposed application<br><br><b>Reason:</b> - The applicant indicates discharge to main sewer, but there are <b>none</b> available. The applicant must provide details of where the surface water disposal route. There are also no details of the proposed surface water drainage system. |
| <b>22/1631/DISCON &amp; 20/1403/OUT</b> | <b>Erection of up to 29 Dwellings. Land off Park Lane, Billingham. LN4 4EE.</b>  |

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. The site is at the edge of the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board area.

The drain to South East edge of the site is riparian and flows into a separate riparian system, arriving at the Board's maintained 2109 Ringmoor Catchwater before entering EA Main River Billingham Skirth.

The Board would recommend that Condition, 11 (Surface water drainage) is **NOT** discharged.

**Section 5. (Rainwater Discharge Hierarchy)** of the Drainage Statement states; -  
*'In terms of levels a connection to the watercourse to the south of the site is the viable solution for surface water for the site. As per the initial IDB feedback, a discussion will be required so that a suitable discharge feature from site is acceptable for the IDB. Vegetation clearance is recommended so that the route from site to the running watercourse can be accurately surveyed. Any headwall structure will require cross sections and a long section as part of any consent to discharge process managed by the IDB.'*

Until this has been done the condition should not be discharged.

**Section 11. (Exceedance)**  
*'Exceedance flow routes over and above the 100 year plus climate change event are shown on the drainage proposals (limited by the topographical survey extents). The runoff is designed to run along the site access and down towards the drainage ditch and land to the SW of the site. Both ponds have 0.3-0.4m freeboard and so offer additional storage volume in exceedance events.'*

There are not enough levels within the site and adjacent to it provided to fully illustrate this.

**Section 12. (Maintenance)**  
The open watercourses are not included in this section, who will be responsible for the further maintenance. This needs to be included.

**Drawing No MD2004 (A)08**  
This drawing shows the existing watercourse as being infilled which has not been indicated previous, this is potential a flow route for land outside of the site as well as in it.

Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board. Including any outfalls and the potential infilling.

Members received and NOTED the Planning and Consultations report.

**2623 Consents and Enforcements.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda. There was nothing to highlight to members on this occasion. There had been no Consent Applications within the District and no Enforcement issues in either the district or the extended area to report.

Members received and noted the report on Consents and Enforcements.

**2624 Any Other Business.**

There were no items of business and the meeting closed at 16:20.

**2625 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 2pm in Branston Booths Village Hall.

.....  ..... Chairman ..... 23.5.23 ..... Date  
W1st BM 24.01.23.