

WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the one hundred and twenty first meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday 30th November 2022 in Minting Village Hall at 09.30am.

Present:

Cllr T Ashton
Cllr Mrs C Grimble
Mr R Hairsine
Cllr G Hewson
Cllr Mrs F M Martin (MBE)
Cllr D Nannestad
Mr I Parker (Chairman)
Mr M I Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr P J Vaughan
Mr R Weightman

In attendance:

Ms P. Ashleigh-Morris	Member of the Public, Observer.
Mr. Ian Coupland	Director of Operations.
Miss Jayne Flower	Executive Assistant.
Mrs. Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive.
Mr. Guy Hird	Head of Engineering & Technical Services.
Mr. Steve Larter	Director of Finance and Governance.
Mr. Martin Shilling	Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

3002 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J. Armstrong, Cllr S. Avison, Cllr B. Bushell, Mr I M Clark, Cllr I Fleetwood, Cllr W Gray, Cllr W. Grover, Ms J Holland, Mr M Hoyes, Cllr T. Kemp, Cllr J Kirk, Mr S. Matthews, Cllr P. Morris, Miss A. Sayer, Mr D Sempers and Mr T Williams.

3003 Declarations of Interest.

Declarations of interest were received from members nominated by City of Lincoln, West Lindsey District and East Lindsey District Councils in matters relating to their respective Councils.

3004 Election of Chairman.

Mr Ian Parker was proposed, seconded and, there being no other nominations for the role of Chairman, unanimously elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3005 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman welcomed members to the November meeting of the Board, thanking them for electing him as Chairman.

It was with deep regret that he advised members that Witham Third DIDB member Mr Richard Garner sadly died suddenly, aged 64 years. His funeral was on Thursday 17th November in

Halham, and the Chairman had represented the Board. Members and officers joined the Chairman in standing to pay respects to Richard.

It had been hoped to welcome Mr John Davie to the meeting as an observer and as a potential future member. However, he had sadly sent his apologies.

The Chairman highlighted once more that the Board does still have 5 vacant seats. If anyone had suggestions of people who may be interested in joining to represent the following electoral wards, to speak to the Chairman or to Jane Froggatt:

- Horncastle & River Bain
- Bardney [2 vacancies]
- Langworth
- Kirkstead

The Chairman indicated the Board was currently in good financial health. As of 31st October 2022, the Board had a small surplus position of £9k. However, cost pressures mean although the position looks stable at of 31st October, the Board faces a difficult few months for the remainder of this financial year 2022/23 and even more severe challenges in setting a balanced budget for next year 2023/24.

A significant challenge was in relation to escalating electricity costs at pumping stations, a challenge being felt across the IDB industry. There would be a focus today on understanding what is happening to electricity costs. Following the ADA Annual Conference, a couple of weeks ago, Jane Froggatt will be accompanying our ADA colleagues to meet with Defra officials in Doncaster this lunchtime, to outline the significant pressures on IDBs and to lobby for some flexibility options over the next couple of years. A Briefing Note has been produced to set out the issues, but to set some numbers around this electricity issue, the 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards currently have electricity budgets for 2022/23 totalling £201,000. Based on only average usage [not a wet year's usage], next year the 4 IDBs will need electricity budgets totalling £880,960. Members were advised there is much concern and discussion therefore about the potential impact on IDB Penny Rate increases for next year and consequently the impact upon Special Levy paying Councils, three for this Board, and the impact on Drainage Rate account holders.

3006 Election of Vice Chairman.

Mr Max Thomas was proposed, seconded and, there being no further nominations, elected unanimously to the role of Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. The Vice Chairman thanked members for electing him.

3007 Election of Standing Committee members [8].

The previous 7 members of the Board's Standing Committee were the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Tom Ashton, Mr. I. M. Clark, Cllr. I.G. Fleetwood, Mr Roy Hairsine and Mr. T. Williams.

All 7 members were proposed, seconded and elected en-bloc, leaving one remaining vacant seat to be filled on the subcommittee.

3008 Election of Joint Services Committee members [4].

The current members of the JSC, being the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr Ian Clark, and Cllr Ian Fleetwood, were proposed, seconded and elected as the 4 members of the Joint Services

Committee for the ensuing year. Two members were proposed, seconded and elected to serve as Deputies on the Joint Services Committee, namely existing Deputies Mr Terry Williams and Mr Ray Weightman.

3009 Calendar of Board and Standing Committee Meeting dates for 2023.

A draft schedule had been circulated with the agenda.

Each Board usually meets 4 times in the year [January, May, September and November Annual Public Meeting]. It was proposed that in 2023 we meet formally on 3 occasions, with the usual January and May meetings, but combining the September and November meetings into one meeting in November, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting. The suggestion from members was that we timetable these 3 meetings for each Board, and if additional meetings are required for any purpose, these can be convened as in-person, videoconference or hybrid meetings.

The September joint Annual Inspection [held this year on 29.09.22] has been brought forward, at the request of some members, to Thursday, 20th July 2023.

Witham Third District Board Meetings (Minting Village Hall, at 09.30am):

- Tuesday, 24th January.
- Tuesday, 23rd May.
- Tuesday, 21st November. (+APM)

Witham Third District Standing Committee Meetings (W3rd Depot, Woodhall Spa at 10am):

- Tuesday, 10th January.
- Tuesday, 09th May.
- Tuesday, 07th November.

3010 Register of Members' Interests.

A copy of the Register of Members' Interests form had been circulated with the agenda. Members were requested to complete this and return it to Witham House, so that an up-to-date Register for November 2022 to October 2023 was maintained. Members were advised of the importance of this being an accurate record. The information in the Register may be subject, for example, to an FOI request and public disclosure and the Register serves as both protection for the Board and for individual members.

3011 Minutes of the Board Meeting, 20.09.22.

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting held on Tuesday 20th September 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

3011.1 Staffing (minute 2994.2 refers).

Cllr Pat Vaughan asked for an update on the staffing situation.

- Mr Richard Wright, Operations Engineer, left the 4 Boards' employment on 30.06.22.
- Mrs Leila Quirk joined the 4 Boards as Risk Manager on 27.06.22.

- Mr Matthew Brockelsby, Operative on Witham Third [in the floating, peripatetic role], left the Board on 30.08.22 after only a short time of approximately 6 weeks in post. A further recruitment round has been organised for his successor.
- Ms Judy Yoxall retired from the Boards as part-time Payroll Assistant for over 20 years.
- Recruitment is underway for vacant posts in the Engineering team, but recent recruitment has proved difficult.
- Following unsuccessful attempts in recruiting to the graduate civil engineer role for the Boards an apprentice had been appointed who would start after his gap year, therefore commencing employment with the Boards on 05th June 2023. We are establishing an Apprentice entry level [post-A levels] Civils Engineer role in conjunction with Lincoln College [as Abigail Gilbert has completed her HNC, HND at Lincoln and this summer successfully completed her penultimate year of her Level 6 Civil Engineering degree at Nottingham Trent University].

There were no further matters arising and Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2022.

3012 Minutes of the Board's Standing Committee meeting, 08.11.22.

The Minutes of the Board's Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 08th November 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING:

3012.1 Southrey Car Park.

Discussion about the apparent problem of overnight parking of camper vans/motor homes in the Board owned car park adjacent to the Railway Inn was noted. Options of improved signage were discussed by the subcommittee ['no overnight parking' signs having been removed], physical height limiter barrier [but may cost circa £10k], public house tenants' wish to rent part of the Board's land to extend their beer garden and any agreement placing a requirement on the lessee to obtain change of use planning permission to do so, potential nuisance to neighbours, preserving the Board's vehicular access 24/7, public liability for issues on the car park, possibility of land sale of part of the garden/car park. Following discussion at the September Standing Committee, it had been agreed to capture relevant issues in an options paper to the Standing Committee on 08.11.22.

After discussion of the options paper circulated with the agenda, it was AGREED that the Board would improve the signage and not at present incur the further cost of having a height limiter/barrier fabricated. Neither would the Board agree a tenancy agreement for the pub tenants to extend their beer garden. It was agreed to take a low-key approach and wait to see whether the issue naturally resolves rather than incur legal costs or further measures costs at this stage.

3013 Chief Executive's Report.

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

ADA's Annual Conference had a change of venue this year, meeting at The Hive in Nocton rather than the usual London venue. Places were limited to 80 in-person and several delegates attended online. The opening address by Robert Caudwell, Chairman, was followed by a presentation from Hazel Durant, Defra's Head of Resilience and Flood Policy. The new Secretary of State appointed is Dr Therese Coffey and Rebecca Powell has returned to Defra as Floods Minister. Early indication is that the SofS is supporting 'The Future Farming Programme', the new Environment Act and the targets within it. The following headlines are some of the issues presented raised:

On floods, the emphasis is on 'delivery', and the maintenance of watercourse assets not just hard assets. During the EA's last 6-year capital programme, the 300,000 homes better protected national target was exceeded [314,000]. The current new programme for 6 years is £5.2 billion, some slippage on this programme. Revenue funding to EA is £179million, of which £121 million is via the RFCCs. Defra view stated as circa £240 million pa as optimum funding level to maintain asset base. Budget Statement awaited Thursday 17.11.22, but next Comprehensive Spending Review [CSR] not until 2024. Some of the policy priorities outlined, included Asset Reviews, do FRMAs know exactly what assets they own, are assets mapped correctly and information shared [study to report in 2024, currently 170 issues identified]. Water agenda- regulatory role of the EA, have increased the maximum civil fine from £250k to £250 million. Water quality and supply both key issues. Sustainable Drainage- Schedule 3 around SuDs and a review of responsibilities underway. Defra working with the EA on the 'floods agenda', both on policy and process, the emphasis being on VFM. Environmental Guide. Water Security for agricultural growth [cited were storage plans and abstraction plans, plus the easing of the process for creation of agricultural reservoirs]. IDBs to move water around, debate about the current legislation does not support this role [legislative changes to enhance role to what is needed to protect, reserve water as well as land drainage].

Presentation from Cllr Matthew Riddle, Chairman of Lower Severn IDB and Councillor on South Gloucestershire Council. Set the debate going about whether the Special Levy charges to Councils for IDBs should be disaggregated from Council Tax, he was promoting that ADA lobby for this disaggregation.

Presentation from Luzette Kroan from a Dutch Water Authority. 350,000 hectares in N Holland, 660,000 inhabitants. Province of Friesland. Water authorities as the 'oldest democracy'- drawing distinction between general democracy institutions and 'functional democratic' institutions like Water Boards. Role of Water Boards encompassing flood protection, water quality and waste water treatment and soil [quality, subsidence and salt water intrusion, peat]. Maintain dykes, treat waste, operate >8,000 pumping stations which discharge directly to the sea. 300 Water Boards originally, now 21 [3.5 billion Euros pa collected for Water Boards + Delta Fund, which largely funds the building of dykes]. There was a move to integrate Water Boards into local democratic authorities, this proposal has now been dropped in the Netherlands.

Panel discussion and audience debate covering: 'water storage not for potable water supply' [2 proposed reservoirs in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire]. Theme followed up by David Thomas of MLC, with the Land Drainage Act [1991] described as not fit for purpose and the need for change to facilitate water levels

management, abstraction and irrigation. Comparison with the Po Valley in Italy, with 10,000 reservoirs and Hazel Durant citing of 25,000 cubic litres and above, there are only 2,200 reservoirs in England. Ian Hodge, EA's Chief Engineer, outlining the challenge of storage reservoirs tend to be offline or online but to main river, and not potable reservoir storage. General agreement that an integrated water strategy is required- EA, PFWAT, Policy Staff at Defra, Water Companies, IDBs etc. Keith Casswell, Chairman of BSIDB then raised the issue of increased electricity costs and the potential impact on IDBs- citing that if we had a series of rainfall events like Autumn 2019/20, the pumping costs to BSIDB would be £1million and Black Sluice IDB would not be sustainable. Much debate and participation followed, this being the key 'here and now' issue for IDBs and a major cost pressure for the remainder of 2022/23 and a challenge for setting financially balanced budgets for 2023/24.

Cllr Tom Ashton asked members for their views on how they felt the conference went, having moved from London. Did Officers feel it was better or worse? He argued that the Board must insist to ADA that it should be held in London. It was agreed that the different venue this year did not offer sufficient space and there was a lack of national representation of MPs / Government representatives.

3013.2 **Capital Programmes.**

For the last few months work has been underway to develop for each of the 4 Boards a Capital Programme to lever in and maximise FDGiA monies, where practicable, and to model what annual contributions would be required from each Board to support and sustain the capital programme. Thanks were given to all members of Management Team for this work, and a particular thanks to our Capital Programme Manger Georgina Nichols [who works across our 4 IDBs and 3 others].

We have completed a first iteration of a Capital Plan for pumping station refurbishments over the next 20 years for each of the Boards. We would like to present this work informally with members, at the Joint Services Committee on 12.12.22 before bringing it to each Board in January 2023.

3013.3 **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 next year 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, that 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 payable monthly from April 2023 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 in September 2023 KAC8 will be for the previous 12 months and secondly to give a cash sum element to the pay award so that it targets a proportionately larger uplift to the lower paid 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, albeit 2.1% is 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. This pay cost pressure is being used in our preparation of budgets for 2023/24.

Staff side 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]. A meeting of the employer's side to the Pay Committee has been convened for Monday 05.12.22.

As adoption or not of the ADA Branch pay settlement is a matter reserved to individual Boards, each is usually asked to adopt the pay settlement. Given the staff side rejection of claim and further meetings are planned, on this occasion I **recommend that the pay settlement adopted by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch is NOTED and that it is adopted in principle by each Board with the caveat that the element which is unconsolidated may need further negotiation, the intent being to keep the total pay cost increase within the already negotiated envelope for 2023/24, but with some movement on the element which is unconsolidated perhaps necessary [and Cllr Lance Pennell and I need the flexibility on this].**

This was AGREED by members.

3013.4 Potential Expansion of the Witham & Humber Drainage Boards' Joint Services Agreement.

The 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards work in partnership under a joint services legal agreement, which uses Section 11 of the Flood & Water Management Act [2010] to facilitate provision of services for and on behalf of another flood risk management authority in a legally binding, but voluntary partnership.

The partnership was originally of two IDBs, then three and from 01st April 2017 it was expanded to include North East Lindsey joining the joint arrangement. It currently works well, providing a local service for each Board.

With the support of the Chairmen, I am exploring with my colleague Chief Executive, an approach from a neighbouring IDB to consider whether it is feasible to expand the partnership to include a fifth IDB potentially from mid-2023 to early 2024.

It is purely an option at this stage, and the advantages and disadvantages need to be worked through for all Boards concerned. Neither our 4 Boards nor the neighbouring IDB need to take this step, but we are all conscious of the difficult

economic times we are operating in, the recruitment and retention issues we will all face in future and the need to ensure not just now but in 5 years' time that our IDBs are resilient. Therefore, we need to consider the proposition carefully as a resilience issue for the future.

Following discussion and confirmation that the Board interested in joining an expanded partnership is Witham Fourth DIDB, most members were neither enthusiastic for/against the proposition. It was also noted that there was a lot of exploratory work to yet be undertaken. Cllr Tom Ashton expressed some initial concerns that the size of Witham Fourth DIDB meant it would be out of proportion to the existing 4 IDBs in the partnership.

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

3014 Schedule of Expenditure, 01.09.22 to 31.10.22.

The Schedule of Expenditure for the two months' period 01st September to 31st October 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance and Governance. The schedule relates to those invoices paid in the period, not the period itself.

Gross expenditure totalled £503,592.08 or, net of £45,581.36 VAT, £458,010.72. Of this, £18,016.97 was recharged to other bodies.

There were no items to highlight on this occasion, the meeting focussing on budgets and pressures.

Members received and NOTED the expenditure incurred in the two months from 01.09.22 to 31.10.22.

3015 Financial Performance Report 2022/23, Period 7 to 31st October 2022.

The Director of Finance & Governance presented the Financial Performance Report to 31.10.22, month 7 of 2022/23, which had been circulated with the agenda. The summary position was:

	2022/23 Estimate	Profiled Budget	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£	£
Income	(1,510,417)	(1,365,715)	(1,694,176)	(328,461)
Board & General Admin	23,573	16,005	13,919	(2,086)
One Off Schemes	10,000	4,706	21,615	16,909
Conservation	2,000	1,063	273	(790)
Depot	33,160	26,303	28,940	2,637
Drains	568,137	437,905	447,008	9,103
Pumping Stations	298,400	173,109	211,304	38,195
Joint Admin/Witham House	164,112	125,375	140,220	14,845
Consents & Enforcement	15,052	24,845	24,349	(496)
Director of Operations/Engineers	116,226	73,683	55,647	(18,036)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	0	0	95,136	95,136
PWLB				0
Rechargeable Works	172,500	117,470	170,321	52,851
EA Precept	107,257	53,628	52,577	(1,051)
FRS17 Pension Adjustment (net)	0	0	0	0
Wages & Plant Holding Account	0	(89,430)	(12,037)	77,393
(Surplus)/Deficit	0	(401,053)	(444,905)	(43,852)

The Board's budget was showing a positive variance of [£43,852] against profile at 31.10.22.

In relation to Income where the positive variation was most significant, Special Levies income from the three councils had been received (£889k) for the full year, with second tranche payments received. The collection rate for Drainage Rates was 97.8% as of 31.10.22 (96.9% at the same point in 2021/22), with £201,722.61 collected to 31.10.22 and after adjustments, a remaining £4,568.45 income outstanding to the Board. First reminders were despatched on 15th August 2022 and final reminders despatched in October 2022. A court date has been set for 16th January 2023 in Boston. All historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and only land transfers from in-year are now being actioned.

Rechargeable Works are being undertaken, mainly for the EA through the PSCA. Invoices have been raised up to the end of October (£245k) for PSCA and (£17k) in other recharges

Highland Water claims have been submitted to the Environment Agency for 2021/22 actual with a further balance of (£65,225) and for 2022/23 Estimated claim (£257,000). The EA has paid 80% of the estimated claim for 2022/23 (£205,600) along with the balance for 2021/22 actual costs incurred (£65,225), making a total income to the Board of (£270,825).

Flood Defence Grant in Aid income of (£116,750) had been received for the following schemes:

Scheme	Total Scheme £	Received £	Due £
Greetwell Catchment Study	(23,000)	(23,000)	0
Telemetry	(112,500)	(93,750)	(18,750)
Total	(135,500)	(116,750)	(18,750)

This income will be expended during the year, with any balance transferred to reserves for works to be completed in future financial years if required.

Electricity will be a significant cost pressure in this financial year. This Board has a budget of **£69k** for the Pumping Stations' electricity and to date **£22k** has been spent. This is only for the **first 6 months** up to the end of September and equates to nearly **31%** of the annual budget for 2022/23. In addition, the new higher standing charges and unit rates take effect from 01st October 2022.

ESPO notified the Board that a price increase takes effect from 01st October 2022 (the last increase was October 2021). There is a substantial increase for all 4 Boards, especially in Standing Charges (payable whether the pumps are used or not) as well as in day and night unit rates. However, these day and night unit rates @30p/KWH are far less than if we were procuring electricity on the open market now @65p to 70p/KWH. Whilst the increase in day and night rates are not to the level of the significant increases in the current market rates, due to the way that ESPO 'buy ahead' blocks of units of electricity, there may be a lag in when the increase comes through, i.e., there could be a further increase of unknown magnitude from 01st October 2023. This will depend upon the unit rates at the time the blocks of electricity purchases are made. This therefore means we are budget setting for 2023/24 from 01.04.23 with known increased electricity prices for only a half-year to 30.09.23 and are having to make assumptions for the remainder of the financial year.

A significant increase from this October 2022 is in the electricity standing charges. These have increased due to the national 'OFGEM Targeted Charging Review'. The Targeted Charging Review was initiated by OFGEM to investigate how network charging (DUoS (Distribution) and TNUoS (Transmission) costs) could be made fairer across all consumer groups. The concern was that the costs of maintaining the grid have been steadily increasing over recent years, yet they were passed on to a reducing number of users.

The reason for this is the nature of energy generation and consumption has changed radically recently. Energy efficiency measures, embedded generation and load shifting have all meant that a growing number of consumers can minimise or even avoid any reliance on the grid, and therefore their exposure to the current charging regimes of DUoS and TNUoS.

These costs are split into two parts. Firstly residual, which is the cost of maintaining the electricity network. The second, forward looking, covers the cost of expanding the network. This change only effects the residual charge, which is 90% of the cost of TNUoS and 50% of DUoS.

Currently, the residual charge is built into the day & night unit rates. From April 2022, network operators are charging suppliers like ESPO and our provider Total Gas & Power (TG&P) a fixed amount for every business customer's site. Essentially, it means similar sites will pay the same towards maintaining the network. Previously, these costs were recovered over 4 months November to February each year, but now they will be recovered each month. This has led to a 'transitional amount' to cover, not only the previous full year costs which are charged over the winter months (November to February) in full, but also the first 6 months of the new monthly charge regime from April 2022 to September 2023 (so in effect 18-month charges to be recovered in 12 months).

The objective of the OFGEM TCR is supposedly to reinstate fairness for everyone involved, while making sure network operators recover the revenue they need to maintain the transmission and distribution systems.

OFGEM believes the most effective way to make sure everyone contributes fairly is through a fixed per/day charge (standing charge). In 'normal' times the day/night unit rates will have reduced, due to these charges coming out of the unit rates and into the standing charges. Unfortunately, we are not seeing this increase in standing charges with corresponding reduction in unit rates due to the significant increases in day and night unit rates for other reasons. The level of charge paid is determined by the TCR Band each site is allocated, an allocation that is carried out by the distribution networks. ESPO's flexible energy contract meant that customers saw the changes from October 2021, with the beginning of the new scheme starting in April 22 onwards.

These new standing charges will put a significant increase on the 4 Boards' cost of electricity based on a 'normal usage' year. As illustrated, standing charges across the 4 IDBs have in effect increased from what was £14/£15k per annum to what will be almost £128k. This, coupled with additional usage if a heavy rainfall event occurs, will put a very significant pressure on electricity budgets:

Standing Charges						
	01/10/2022	01/10/2021	01/10/2020	01/10/2019	Budget 2022/23	% of Budget
NEL	£ 10,670	£ 4,679	£ 1,521	£ 1,223	£ 15,000	71.1%
UW	£ 28,820	£ 12,505	£ 4,427	£ 3,877	£ 48,000	60.0%
W1	£ 54,623	£ 20,362	£ 5,174	£ 5,219	£ 69,000	79.2%
W3	£ 33,803	£ 14,099	£ 4,459	£ 3,595	£ 69,000	49.0%
Total	£ 127,917	£ 51,645	£ 15,580	£ 13,914	£ 201,000	63.6%

The Government has announced a support scheme for energy costs incurred by business, including the Public Sector, to help with meeting these additional costs over the winter months. The scheme, as currently announced, will only cover 01st October 2022 until 31st March 2023. No announcement has yet been made of any further support after March 2023. This support is based upon a maximum unit rate of £211 per megawatt hour (or 21.1 pence per kilowatt hour). At this time, we have no confirmation from ESPO/TG&P of how this will benefit the Boards, as the detail of implementing the scheme is still being worked through.

However, in order to provide Members with the potential financial impact of these increases, the following table set out the indicative costs for the Board based on different usage levels based upon historical usage levels. **Any flood event will significantly add to the costs of electricity for the Board.**

W3	Usage KWH	Total @10p/kwh	Total @20p/kwh	Total @30p/kwh	Total @40p/kwh	Total @50p/kwh	Total @60p/kwh	Total @70p/kwh	Budget 2022/23
Dry	300,000	75,975	105,975	135,975	165,975	195,975	225,975	255,975	£ 69,000
Average	450,000	90,975	135,975	180,975	225,975	270,975	315,975	360,975	£ 69,000
Wet	750,000	120,975	195,975	270,975	345,975	420,975	495,975	570,975	£ 69,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 6,975	£ 36,975	£ 66,975	£ 96,975	£ 126,975	£ 156,975	£ 186,975	
Average		£ 21,975	£ 66,975	£ 111,975	£ 156,975	£ 201,975	£ 246,975	£ 291,975	
Wet		£ 51,975	£ 126,975	£ 201,975	£ 276,975	£ 351,975	£ 426,975	£ 501,975	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		0.67%	3.55%	6.44%	9.32%	12.20%	15.09%	17.97%	
Average		2.11%	6.44%	10.76%	15.09%	19.41%	23.74%	28.06%	
Wet		5.00%	12.20%	19.41%	26.62%	33.83%	41.04%	48.24%	

The October 2022 rates are @30p per unit so will have the impact as set out in the table for each of the 3 scenarios, based upon this rate for a full calendar year 01st October 2022 to 30th September 2023 including standing and KVA charges. From October 2023, there could be a further price increase of @35% which would then mean the 40p/kwh column would apply (indicatively). Historically, @80% of usage is October to March (so the second half of the financial year).

For information, the tables for the other 3 Boards within the Witham & Humber group were highlighted, to demonstrate the significant impact for all 4 Boards:

UW	Usage KWH	Total @10p/kwh	Total @20p/kwh	Total @30p/kwh	Total @40p/kwh	Total @50p/kwh	Total @60p/kwh	Total @70p/kwh	Budget 2022/23
Dry	275,000	65,226	92,726	120,226	147,726	175,226	202,726	230,226	£ 48,000
Average	400,000	77,726	117,726	157,726	197,726	237,726	277,726	317,726	£ 48,000
Wet	500,000	87,726	137,726	187,726	237,726	287,726	337,726	387,726	£ 48,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 17,226	£ 44,726	£ 72,226	£ 99,726	£ 127,226	£ 154,726	£ 182,226	
Average		£ 29,726	£ 69,726	£ 109,726	£ 149,726	£ 189,726	£ 229,726	£ 269,726	
Wet		£ 39,726	£ 89,726	£ 139,726	£ 189,726	£ 239,726	£ 289,726	£ 339,726	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		1.49%	3.88%	6.27%	8.65%	11.04%	13.42%	15.81%	
Average		2.58%	6.05%	9.52%	12.99%	16.46%	19.93%	23.40%	
Wet		3.45%	7.78%	12.12%	16.46%	20.80%	25.13%	29.47%	

W1	Usage KWH	Total @10p/kwh	Total @20p/kwh	Total @30p/kwh	Total @40p/kwh	Total @50p/kwh	Total @60p/kwh	Total @70p/kwh	Budget 2022/23
Dry	500,000	124,047	174,047	224,047	274,047	324,047	374,047	424,047	£ 69,000
Average	800,000	154,047	234,047	314,047	394,047	474,047	554,047	634,047	£ 69,000
Wet	1,500,000	224,047	374,047	524,047	674,047	824,047	974,047	1,124,047	£ 69,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 55,047	£ 105,047	£ 155,047	£ 205,047	£ 255,047	£ 305,047	£ 355,047	
Average		£ 85,047	£ 165,047	£ 245,047	£ 325,047	£ 405,047	£ 485,047	£ 565,047	
Wet		£ 155,047	£ 305,047	£ 455,047	£ 605,047	£ 755,047	£ 905,047	£ 1,055,047	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		5.98%	11.40%	16.83%	22.26%	27.69%	33.12%	38.55%	
Average		9.23%	17.92%	26.60%	35.29%	43.97%	52.66%	61.34%	
Wet		16.83%	33.12%	49.40%	65.69%	81.97%	98.26%	114.54%	

NEL	Usage KWH	Total @10p/kwh	Total @20p/kwh	Total @30p/kwh	Total @40p/kwh	Total @50p/kwh	Total @60p/kwh	Total @70p/kwh	Budget 2022/23
Dry	150,000	26,747	41,747	56,747	71,747	86,747	101,747	116,747	£ 15,000
Average	200,000	31,747	51,747	71,747	91,747	111,747	131,747	151,747	£ 15,000
Wet	300,000	41,747	71,747	101,747	131,747	161,747	191,747	221,747	£ 15,000
Increase									
Dry		£ 11,747	£ 26,747	£ 41,747	£ 56,747	£ 71,747	£ 86,747	£ 101,747	
Average		£ 16,747	£ 36,747	£ 56,747	£ 76,747	£ 96,747	£ 116,747	£ 136,747	
Wet		£ 26,747	£ 56,747	£ 86,747	£ 116,747	£ 146,747	£ 176,747	£ 206,747	
Penny Rate Increase									
Dry		1.90%	4.34%	6.77%	9.20%	11.63%	14.07%	16.50%	
Average		2.72%	5.96%	9.20%	12.44%	15.69%	18.93%	22.17%	
Wet		4.34%	9.20%	14.07%	18.93%	23.80%	28.66%	33.52%	

Inflation

The inflationary pressures that the country is currently experiencing are affecting many of the Board's costs. Electricity, fuel, plant and vehicle maintenance, insurance, mobile phones are all 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 which will put undue pressure on the latter half of this financial year's budgets 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 report set out bank balances and investments as at 31.10.22, as follows:

Natwest	£ 534,350.38
Nationwide Instant Access	£ 432,380.83
Nationwide 95 Day Notice	£ 425,621.29
Total	£ 1,392,352.50

Members NOTED the 2022/23 financial performance for 01st April to 31st October 2022.

**The Chief Executive left the meeting at this point, to attend a meeting with Defra and ADA to discuss budgets*

3016 Health and Safety Report.

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

With the end of summer maintenance in sight, we continue to review work practises as we move into winter maintenance, to keep staff safe and at work wherever possible. There have been more Covid-19 (C19) cases within teams this year than through the lockdowns. Positive cases are assessed individually, and if possible, we give Operatives and other staff the opportunity to work with a positive test result providing a) they feel well and b) can work with no interaction with others. Failing to meet those criteria would mean staying at home until 2 negative LFT test results (on separate, consecutive days). Our support staff can work from home if they feel well enough to work.

Witham House office is open to the public, contractors, and visitors by prior arrangement. In line with the Government's 'living with Covid' guidance, face masks are not mandatory, however are provided for those who wish to wear one. Testing is no longer a requirement, but W&HDBs continue to provide LFTs to staff to help reduce the likelihood of Covid transmission within our workplaces.

We remain conscious of the changing picture of C19, both morally for the wellbeing of our staff and for organisational resilience to continue to deliver the works required. C19 arrangements continue to be reviewed weekly at Management Team Meetings, and any change to national guidance is kept under review.

H & S Visits (by Cope Health and Safety Consultancy)

The 4 Boards' Annual H&S Policy Review has been completed. In attendance were Simon Cross (Cope), Jane Froggatt, Ian Coupland and Leila Quirk (WHDB). During the visit the H&S policy, policy statements and booklets were all reviewed.

Accidents.

There have been 2 reported accidents, resulting in minor injury. Root cause - assets not robust, e.g., damaged gates. Internal investigations completed, onward reports to the EA who have added to their H&S lists. The assets do not belong to WHDB or to the EA, so the landowners concerned would need to make the necessary arrangements.

Near Miss Reports.

There have been 3 near misses reported. These involve tractors slipping or edging the banks (fully or in part). All near misses have been or are being investigated to see if there is anything we can learn/do differently.

Pyewipe pumping station – The Board's Contractor was hand digging and struck/ exposed a cable. The area was assessed/scanned by the Contractor prior to commencing works but the cabling had not shown up. No damage to the cable. Cables are now rerouted.

Positive points:

- In 2021 there were 8 incidents reported. So far in 2022 there have been 15.
- This figure shows more Near Misses being reported, and these are investigated for the purposes of trend analysis and embedding any lessons learned.

Training.

6 x Operatives undertook masted forklift training, 2 x Chainsaw with felling, 4 x operation of armed flails, 5 x spraying near water, 5 x safe use of Robo-mower, 6 x Abrasive wheels, 3 x

basic welding, 4 x Cat H licence and Overhead cable avoidance training was undertaken by most Operatives, with the remainder of Operatives and North East Lindsey's contractor booked early in the new year.

Manual handling, fire awareness, and working at height refreshers are booked for later this year for all staff members [early December].

Policies and Procedures

Procedures:

- Display Screen Equipment – to include agile working, review of DSE home/office.
- Fire – review of fire policy.
- Young Persons – including RA for young people on work experience.

Emergency Planning:

- FloodEx (National) – WHDB are involved in Lincolnshire & Humberside exercise 14th-18th November 2022.
- Emergency Plan (EP-001) in draft,
- Emergency Procedures Manual (EP-002), in draft with annexes for additional information e.g., loss of utilities, pandemic, fuel, COMAH etc.
- Emergency Flood plan (EP-003) is being reviewed – any lessons learned during National FloodEx, following the debrief, will be incorporated

Corporate Risk:

- The Corporate Risk Register will be reviewed for January 2023.

Risk Assessments / SSOW:

- Board Annual Inspection 20.09.22
- Review RAF4 001 Clearing Dykes
- Review RAF4 005 Use of wheeled and tracked vehicles
- Review RAF4 002 & SSOW lone working
- Review RAF4 General workshop & SSOW Welding and allied processes
- Fire Risk Assessments (and packs) for all Boards

Proactive workstreams:

- Risk matters – 2 sent out to cover pertinent H&S matters (July / November).
- Ongoing visits to Depots/sites to work with our Teams and provide the opportunity to raise any queries as they may arise.

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

3017 Environment Update.

An update by the GIS and Environment Officer had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Engineering and Technical Services, Guy Hird.

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 was nothing to highlight to members on this occasion and Members noted the Environmental update.

3018 Operations Report.

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

Summer maintenance is expected to be finished around Christmas time, moving straight into winter works. These works include bushing works on Barlings at Cold Hanworth, Horncastle Canal in Tattershall, Marsh Lane Drain Tattershall, Park Beck Tattershall, Tile house Beck Bardney and Stixwould Engine Drain. Slips on Wickenby Wood Drain Wickenby, Croft Drain Woodhall spa and Scothern Fen Drain. Operatives have planned the second phase of reforming works on Minting/Gautby Beck.

The Atlas 150W wheeled excavator reported previously as having the hydraulic pump failure is now back from TDL in Tankersley and fully operational once more. TDL had to dismantle all the rams, clean and fit new seals, completely flush the hydraulic system several times to remove all minute iron particles and fit a new hydraulic pump. The excavator then had to be filled up with new clean biodegradable hydraulic oil. The total cost of these works came in at £33,514, but after some negotiations around hourly rates and hydraulic oil costs and Atlas themselves agreeing to give a % reduction for the new pump, it is at a reduced invoice price of £24,500. There is a new prop shaft on this machine at a cost of £1,040.00. Several months ago, one of the tyres had an unrepairable puncture and needed a new tyre. The tread on the new tyre was significantly more than the worn tyre on the other side, so a pair of tyres was installed on to match side-to-side, but the correct procedure would have been to put four tyres on to balance the machine. It is suspected this caused the diff to wind up and damaged the prop shaft. This has now been rectified and the machine has new tyres [the part worn tyres are available if this should happen again].

We have an interview date booked for November 23rd, 2022, to hopefully fill the vacant [floating] Operative position currently held in Witham Third.

Greetwell Pumping Station

No update at present on the transformer slab repairs, this being on-hold pending the outcome of the EA/W3rd/developer funded Greetwell and Shortferry catchment study to advise on optimum pumping station requirements for the future if Cherry Willingham Fen marina development progresses.

Stamp End Pumping Station

LCC have now completed the works they agreed to undertake as improvements before handing over the asset to the Board for an agreed commuted sum of £75k. There is now another issue, the failure of the pump. It is currently with LCC to arrange the repair. There is a delay in the legal work to achieve this transfer, due to change in ownership of land adjacent to the pumping station and an easement agreement now needed with Cadent / National Grid rather than Western Power, say respective solicitors. The Board's legal fees are being met by LCC.

Bardney Abbey Pumping Station

Bardney Abbey pump is now back in-situ and working well. Members will recall the cost of this refurbishment was £19,732.10 [in excess of the 2022/23 budget].

Southrey Pumping Station

Southrey pump no.2 is now back in place and again working well. Again, members will recall the cost of this refurbishment was £33,945.01 [in excess of budget].

PSCA Works 2022/23 for the EA.

Operatives have undertaken most of the agreed PSCA works, with just minor bits left to finish. Some second flailing cuts were lost on Witham Third due to the grass not really growing sufficiently after the first cuts in this dry summer 2022, and the EA have asked the Board to deliver some additional flailing in Witham Third and Upper Witham districts for which we had not quoted.

Members received and NOTED the Operations report and update.

3019 Engineering Report.

The Engineering Services Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Technical & Engineering Services, Guy Hird.

Flood Events.

Again, there had been no flood events on which to report.

Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Lincolnshire (JA-1400-2014-ORG) Humber (ND-4250-2018-ORG)

'FloodEx2022' is a significant National, Regional and local simulation exercise involving all the LRFs along the Trent Catchment as well as all the East Coast LRFs, covering both Tidal and Fluvial Flooding.

The week-long exercise took place from 14th to 18th November 2022, having been postponed from the original 19th-22nd September, because of the death of Her late Majesty the Queen.

The exercise tested the interaction between LRFs including the Humber which was also looking at a scenario like the east coast tidal event in 2013. For our 4 Drainage Boards the relevant LRFs are the Humber LRF, the Lincolnshire LRF and Nottinghamshire LRF.

It gave an opportunity to consider how we engage with the LRF(s) and the exercise to maximise protection of the drainage districts, reduce the impact of flooding and potentially have access to national resources for future events.

Whilst funding for 'in event' additional costs incurred is potentially available through the Bellwin Formula, this is only providing certain trigger criteria for the District Council are met [and IDB costs may not trigger such]. There is no funding mechanism available post emergency response phase for the recovery phase. So, for example, there is no additional money to clear away the sand and debris washed in by the sea, clear and reinstate the drainage channels or repair pumping stations or embankments. It is an opportunity to raise this issue in the National Forum.

The Recovery Phase of the Flood event was also included in the exercise, for Humber on the Thursday and for Lincolnshire on the Friday. The 4 Boards' Officers were involved and took the opportunity to highlight the complete lack of post-event funding available and the difficulties any Drainage Board is likely to face.

A debrief will follow for Lincolnshire LRF on the 09th December 2022.

Willingham Fen Marina Project (TD-3733-2017-PLN)

Willingham Fen Marina Project is also known as Cherry Marina, the landowner has created the embankments to form the marina basin outline. It retains some groundwater but is yet to be connected to the River Witham or to cross the Board maintained North Delph. Discussions are ongoing to ensure the Board's interests are protected.

The Board has commissioned a catchment study covering the North Delph and the North Engine Drain [with funding contributions from the EA, the Board and the developer]. A draft report outlining the results of the modelling work is programmed for completion by the end of November 2022. At this point, the Board will have discussions with the site's developer as to its future pumping requirements.

The Engineering Services report was received and NOTED.

3020 Planning and Consultations Report.

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

The Board had received several consultations and had commented on various planning applications to the various planning authorities. A full schedule was provided where responses included no objections or minor standard comments referring to soakaways the requirement for consents.

There was nothing to highlight to members on this occasion.

Members NOTED the report.

3021 Consents and Enforcements Report.

The Consents and Enforcements Report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Head of Technical & Engineering Services.

The Enforcement Officer had made considerable progress since the last report and there was nothing in terms of problem cases to highlight to members. Very unusually, the Board had not received any consent applications during September and October and therefore there were no applications to highlight to members.

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

3022 Any Other Business.

There being no further items of business, the meeting closed at 11:30.

3023 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 24th January at 09:30am in Minting Village Hall.

Iain
..... Chairman 24-1-23 Date
W3rd B.M. ~~20-09-22~~
30.11.22