

## **WITHAM FIRST DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

**Minutes of the one-hundred-and-thirty-first meeting of Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Branston Booths Village Hall, Lincoln at 2pm.**

### **Present:**

Mr D C Armstrong - **Chairman**  
Cllr M Clarke  
Mr S Cobb  
Cllr K Fernandes  
Mr W Grantham  
Mr M Harrison – **Vice Chairman**  
Cllr M Head  
Cllr G Hewson  
Mr S Longmate  
Mrs B Maplethorpe  
Mr C R Oxby  
Dr V Stanton  
Cllr P J Vaughan

### **In attendance:**

Mr Ian Coupland	Director of Operations
Ms Jayne Flower	Executive Assistant
Mrs Jane Froggatt	Chief Executive
Mr Chris Harris	Internal Auditor, Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd.
Mr Steve Larter	Director of Finance & Governance
Mr Martin Shilling	Director of Engineering & Technical Services

### **2758 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr E Applewhite, Mr D Busby, Cllr I Carrington, Mr P Gilbert, Cllr A Hagues, Mr R Hickling, Mr A Hodgson, Mr S Leggate, Mr I Mair, Mr S Maplethorpe, Mr A Means and Cllr L Sanders.

### **2759 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 the respective Councils.

### **2760 Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the May meeting of the Board, traditionally one of the busier meetings of the year. A particular welcome was extended to Chris Harris, Internal Auditor. Chris had completed his audit on 2024/25 and would present his report and audit certificate.

He also welcomed new member, Mr Stuart Longmate of Dyson Farming, who will be representing the electoral district of Nocton & Branston Fen after agreeing to be co-opted to Board membership.

The Vice Chairman, Mr Paul Carrott had stepped down from the Board due to his re-locating to Suffolk on 9th June. The Chairman put on record his thanks to Paul for his time on the Board, and for serving as Vice Chairman. Members wished him well for the future, with his career move and relocation.

Paul had sent his thanks and good wishes to all Board Members for their help and support and, whilst he is sorry not to have the opportunity to become Chairman, he strongly believes that Stuart will be a good representative.

As this meant that the Board did not currently have a Vice Chairman the Chairman encouraged any members who may be interested in the role to have a discussion with either himself or Jane Froggatt.

**Mr Mark Harrison was nominated by Pat Vaughan to become Vice Chairman and, following a vote and there being no further nominations, he was duly elected. Mark thanked members for electing him to the role.**

The agenda was necessarily heavily finance-led, it being that time of year to receive several reports relating to the closure of the preceding financial year to 31st March. The Chairman was pleased to see that the Board ended 2024/25 with an underlying surplus position of £262,058 which, after the recommended transfers to Reserves, is £37,058 net. An excellent result given the financial risks of the last 18 months and the Major Incident flooding event in Lincolnshire in early January 2025. But undoubtedly the Board's year-end financial position would not be as healthy had the Boards not had the benefit of national IDB Fund grant monies providing one-off benefit.

Members would receive updates today on many capital schemes, both those completed and those underway. The IDB Fund schemes have been significant for the 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards and warrant a particular mention.

The 4 Boards successfully completed 22 IDB Fund schemes for 31st March 2025. Grant of £4.9 million was awarded. The schemes included £1.6 million for reinstatement of bank slips across all 4 drainage districts; the purchase of an array of mobile pumps for all 4 Boards, which will provide resilience in future flood events. Schemes completed in Witham First also include Farroway Pumping Station weedscreen deck reinstatement & repairs at £143k, Timberland Pumping Station pump refurbishment at £69k, Storm Recovery costs at £216k and Branston pumping station works at £41.9k.

Extensions were granted to 7 schemes, totalling £5.8million, ranging from completions now required by 30th September 31st December and 31st March 2026. This includes a further Automatic Weedscreen Control structures at £1.4 million, Sandhill Beck Pumping Station additional pump and civils work at £970k. Updates will be provided during the meeting.

When the Board last met at the end of January, submissions were made for IDB Fund Tranche 2B schemes. Pleasingly, all these were successful and a further £6.7 million has been awarded to the 4 IDBs. This includes £954k for further water control structures across the drainage districts and £2.5 million for replacement Archimedes Screw Pumps at 3 Pumping Stations, including the Board's North Kyme station.

In total, the Boards have levered in £17.4 million of the national IDB Fund, which was originally £75 million until extended by the Floods Minister Emma Hardy MP to £91 million

in April 2025. All schemes are to be completed by 31st March 2026, which will test our staff, contractors and suppliers.

The Board received confirmation on Friday 16th May that the Business Case for Timberland & Billingham Pumping Stations has been approved by the EA and is now subject to a financial review before hopefully, the approval letter being issued within 4 weeks. The scheme estimated cost is £4.9 million.

#### **2761 Minutes of the previous Board meeting, 28.01.25.**

The Minutes of the Board's previous meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

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

- 2761.1 Cllr Mervyn Head asked officers if the EA had been requested to revise their flood maps. It was confirmed that Officers have and are aware that modelling has been done and the EA has issued new flood maps, but the works have been undertaken nationally without local input. This was of great concern. Martin Shilling advised that Officers continue to raise issues on developments but as the Board is not a statutory consultee comments can be ignored. The Board is reliant upon the local planning authority concerned to consider comments from IDB Officers.

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

#### **2762 Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, 06.05.25.**

The minutes of the Board's Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 06<sup>th</sup> May 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

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

- 2762.1 Highland Water Claims (minute 5.4 refers)

It was confirmed that the shortfall on the 2024 Claims had been paid in full in February 2025 not by the EA but, with the support of the Anglian [Northern] RFCC in October 2024, the shortfall owed to IDBs was met from Local Levy monies. The current RFCC Chairman had supported this approach, but it was noted that his term of office finishes in June 2025, his successor is not yet confirmed.

The Highland Water Claims for 2025 total £830k [based on the balance owed on actual 24/25 costs and 80% of estimated claim for 25/26] and were submitted last week, payable by the EA by 30.09.25. This is NELDB £130k, Upper Witham £290.3k, Witham First £33k and Witham Third £377.5k.

Cllr Mike Clarke asked why it was such a low claim for Witham First. It was explained that as Upper Witham and Witham Third take such high volumes of water from upland areas, whereas Witham First and North East Lindsey do not and their payment is considerably less.

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

**2763 Minutes of the Joint Services Committee meeting, 12.05.25.**

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were received and NOTED by members.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**2763.1      Local Elections & Greater Lincolnshire Mayor (minute 5.5 refers).**

Elections were held on 01.05.25 for the new role of Greater Lincolnshire Mayor, with Reform candidate Dame Andrea Jenkyns being elected. The new Mayoral Authority will comprise the Mayor and two members from each of the 3 Upper Tier Councils [North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council]. Officer support to the new body is initially through former Greater Lincolnshire LEP staff.

Lincolnshire County Council also had elections to its 70 electoral wards on 01.05.25, with Reform taking 44 seats and the previous controlling Conservative Group now holding 14 seats and becoming the official opposition.

The 7 District/Borough Council elections in Lincolnshire are due in May 2027, but it is unclear whether these will go ahead as planned, given the proposed Local Government Reform is proposed to take effect from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2028, with shadow arrangements in place from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2027. More should be known once devolution proposals are confirmed in November 2025.

This heralds a period of great uncertainty in Local Government and impacts on IDBs in several ways. Particularly, the well-established Flood & Water Risk Management Partnership in Lincolnshire will experience a period of turbulence, whilst new priorities, staffing and working arrangements are clarified [e.g., will water and flood risk be one of the key priorities for the new Mayoral Authority]. IDBs are currently funded through Drainage Rates local taxation on occupiers of land and Special Levies levied on the District/Borough Council tier of Local Government, which is to be abolished and replaced with Unitary Councils. A risk to IDBs in this is that the long-established Special Levy mechanism gets lost in the structural reform of Local Government and we move perhaps to a direct allocation funding mechanism. An issue for the IDBs to watch closely.

Members discussed and felt it was important to remember that IDBs are non-political, they are in place to provide a service, so it was hoped that disruption would be minimal.

Cllr Head stated that he had grave concerns about this issue. He was concerned that funding for IDBs would be cut and they would not have a seat at the table. He hoped that ADA would be taking a strong interest in this issue.

2763.2 2024/25 Joint Services Budget Monitoring Report as at 31.12.25 (Minute 7 refers).

The financial position for the Joint Services Committee (JSC) for the period 01st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 was presented and compared the budget position for Q4 of 2024/25 to the actual position for Q4, with the variance. The overall variance at Q4 is a positive one of (£13,535), but this does not include the costs of £13,500 for the development of a new website for the 4 Boards and £16,294 for a new Ratings Management System (RMS). Once these are included it is a slight negative variance of £16,259 (1.26%) on an approved budget of £1,289,674.

Members were advised that most budgets are broadly on target. The main variance is the necessary development of the new website for the 4 Boards at £13.5k and a new Ratings Management system at £13.9k. Without these two major service developments the JSC costs would have been within the approved budget.

The approved JSC annual total budget for 2024/25 is £1,289,674. Against this budget, expenditure of £1,276,139 has been incurred, so a modest underspend of (£13,535) or -1.05%. Once the ICT developments are included of £29,794 which were not included in the original JSC Budget then there is a negative variance of £16,259 or 1.26%

There were no further matters arising.

**2764 Chief Executive's Report.**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda and was taken as read, with issues highlighted as follows:

2764.1 **Financial Positions at the end of 2024/25 & Internal Auditor's Review of 2024/25.**

All 4 IDBs ended 2024/25 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 with a healthy year-end surplus position, which is encouraging given the challenges during the year including electricity, the partial payment of Highland Water Claims by the EA, the declaration of a Major Incident by the LRF in Lincolnshire 06.01.25-09.01.25 due to flooding, the need to develop both a new Drainage Rates system by 31.03.25 and to renew the website in-year. And, significantly, the IDB £75million Fund [increased in April 2025 by the Floods & Water Minister to £91 million] which provided significant one-off income for much needed recovery and resilience schemes in all 4 drainage districts, but which brought project challenges and financial risk with those opportunities.

The summary of the 31.03.25 end of year positions was as follows:

- NELDB: An underlying surplus position of £157,929, £37,929 net after proposed Reserves transfers.
- Upper Witham IDB: An underlying surplus position of £291,755, £41,755 net after proposed Reserves transfers.

- **Witham First DIDB:** An underlying surplus position of £262,058, £37,058 net after proposed Reserves transfers.
- **Witham Third DIDB:** An underlying surplus position of £270,627, £15,627 net after proposed Reserves transfers.

Internal Auditor, Chris Harris, of Lighthouse Consultancy Ltd conducted his 2024/25 internal review of the 4 IDBs during March 2025 and has issued a 'substantial assurance rating' once again for each Board.

#### 2764.2 **EA Highland Water Claims by IDBs.**

As reported to members at the January 2025 Board meetings, only 54% of the 80% EA Highland Water payment due for payment by 30.09.24 for the 2024/25 Estimates had so far been received by the Boards. The Witham & Humber DBs' original claim in 2024 was £880k.

The EA notified IDBs verbally, via a videoconference meeting on 13.09.24 that they had insufficient budget to meet the IDB claims. The RFCC agreed at its meeting on 18.10.24 to ensure payment is made, potentially from Local Levy, before 31st March 2025. Following this discussion at RFCC, it was agreed that the IDBs across Lincolnshire should be paid in full the shortfall of £421,705.40, this being from Local Levy before 31.03.25 if national funds were not forthcoming.

At the RFCC meeting on 24.01.25 the Chairman, Eddy Poll, confirmed that IDBs would be reimbursed from Local Levy but he advised that decision had been criticised by 'the upper echelons of the EA'. However, he stood by that RFCC decision as fair and reasonable, the IDBs having incurred the costs of processing water from upland areas and the outstanding 2024 Highland Water Claims were paid from Local Levy monies in late February 2025.

We understand that the national EA budget to meet IDB HWCs has been uplifted to £6.1million for 2025/26, but we do not know the level of claims and whether this is sufficient budget. This therefore remains a risk for 2025/26.

The claims for 2025 were submitted on 09.05.25. These total circa £830k, so have returned to the more typical annual claims total. This being, by Board:

- NELDB: £130k
- Upper Witham IDB: £290.3k
- Witham First DIDB: £33k
- Witham Third DIDB: £377.5k

Members will be updated on Highland Water Claims during 2025/26.

#### 2764.3 **Flood Risk Meeting with Hamish Falconer, MP for City of Lincoln, 07.03.25.**

A meeting was held on 07.03.25 between Hamish Falconer, MP for City of Lincoln, and various Flood Risk Management Authorities including the EA, LCC, EA and Anglian Water.

The meeting was constructive in briefing on the causes of flooding in particular areas of the City, e.g. St Catherines, and the flood history. Equally, there was an understanding of the magnitude of rainfall events in Storms Babet and Henk, and the impact of rainfall in early January 2025 when Lincolnshire LRF declared a Major Incident due to the impact of flooding.

The Board's position was outlined including UW has an approved Capital Programme for its 18 pumping stations and members receive updates setting out details of both maintenance and capital project plans at their meetings. City of Lincoln Council is a Special Levy paying Council to 3 of the 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards group [Upper Witham IDB, Witham First District IDB and Witham Third District IDB] and as such has proportionate representation of members on each of the Boards. These plans are primarily formed to provide/maintain the standard of protection the Board believes is appropriate for the catchments they serve, both inside and outside of the City boundary.

Witham & Humber Drainage Boards would be pleased to participate in any multi-agency meetings to discuss land drainage, flood risk and water levels management issues within the City and would also be pleased to demonstrate or explain further any sites maintained or operated by them to the MP and his team.

Val Stanton asked the Chief Executive how successful she felt the meeting had been. Jane Froggatt confirmed that the meeting was amicable but there were no quick fixes. Money is required to do the work, and solutions are technically possible in some instances. Cllr Clarke noted that pressure on our MPs should be maintained to garner more support.

**2764.4 Fish & Eel Regulations 2009.**

The anticipated Notice of Exemptions for pumping station compliance were issued by the EA to IDBs on 31.03.25. However, these were only issued for a 12-month period from 01.04.25 and with a requirement that compliance plans are agreed with the EA within six months, otherwise there may be enforcement action against the Board.

This change in approach has caused some concern amongst IDBs, who have largely been reliant on FDGiA funding to replace and refurbish pumping stations where fish friendly pumps have been installed to ensure compliance. The Capital Programme of FDGiA for 2025/26 has been severely cut by the EA and this year is now year 5 of a 5-year [not 6] year programme, with no certainty in funding beyond 31.03.26.

A meeting with the EA's national lead has been arranged for Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to understand requirements.

**2764.5 Annual Inspection- Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

This year the 4 Boards' Inspection on 17<sup>th</sup> July will start from the Depot in Woodhall Spa at 09:00. Members will have an opportunity to view the additional mobile pumps and associated equipment purchased from the IDB Fund monies, which aim to provide greater resilience in future flood events.

The tour will then leave to follow a route showcasing some of the many schemes completed during 2024/25 including the completed works at Coningsby Pumping Station [inundated in November 2023 following the breach of the river Bain], the additional pumping capacity at Shortferry and Southrey Pumping Stations and a tilting weir installed as part of the LAPSIP [Lowland Agricultural Peat Small Infrastructure Project].

The morning tour will return to Woodhall Spa, followed by lunch at The Dower House at 13:30.

Members are asked to confirm with Jayne Flower [Jayney.Flower@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto:Jayney.Flower@witham3idb.gov.uk) or by phone on 01522 697123 whether they will be attending [please confirm ASAP for coach and catering numbers].

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

#### **2765 Internal Auditor Report 2024/25.**

A report had been prepared by the Internal Auditor Mr Chris Harris of Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd, circulated with the agenda and was presented by Chris.

- The overall assurance opinion based on the work of the auditor is SUBSTANTIAL.
- No recommendations have been made as a result of the audit.
- The matters raised in the Internal Audit Report for 2023/24 namely – weaknesses in relation to out of date policies, and the risk management strategy have all been addressed.
- The auditor is pleased to record that, following his detailed internal audit work, the governance, risk and control framework at Witham 1st DDB is in good order and working well.

While the 2024/25 General Reserve position was in the order of 17.34% of turnover and above the previous 10 to 15% range for General Reserves, in future General Reserves are expected to be between 15% and 20% of turnover as contained with Financial Regulations that were approved at the JSC meeting in December 2024. For 2025/26 General Reserves are estimated to be in the order of 20.45% of turnover.

Members NOTED the Internal Auditor's Report and the overall assurance opinion of SUBSTANTIAL.

#### **2766 End of Year Financial Report for month 12 of 2024/25, as at 31.03.25.**

A report on the financial year end as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 had been prepared by the Director of Finance and circulated with the agenda.

The Board made an initial surplus of (£270,627) but after proposed transfers to specific Reserves of £255k this brings the surplus down to:

2024/25 (Surplus/Deficit) £	Proposed Fund Transfers £	Outturn (Surplus)/Deficit £
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(262,058)	(225,000)	(37,058)
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The Board is showing a modest surplus position after proposed transfer to reserves at the end of the financial year, which will be transferred to the General Reserve. Whilst this is a healthy outturn position Members were reminded that the Board now has more financial risk especially with regards electricity costs if we encounter wet weather events and the reliance on PSCA income. Therefore, it is important that the Board's reserves are maintained to mitigate some of this additional financial risk.

The following table sets out the 4 Witham & Humber Boards' outturn positions as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:

Board	Initial Outturn P12	Transfer to Reserves			Outturn P12 (trf to Gen Fund)	% of Budgeted Turnover
		Insurance Reserve	Plant & Machinery	Pumping Stations		
NEL	(£157,929)	£50,000		£70,000	(£37,929)	20.47%
UW	(£291,755)	£50,000	£200,000		(£41,755)	21.62%
W1	(£262,058)	£50,000	£100,000	£75,000	(£37,058)	19.02%
W3	(£270,627)	£15,000	£240,000		(£15,627)	21.09%

All Boards have ended the financial year with a surplus position, as had been forecast at the January round of Board meetings. This is due to some costs that normally the Board would incur during the year (e.g. pump lifts) being charged to grant funded schemes. It is emphasised this is a one-off benefit and next year the Board will again need to fund these works.

The table above includes some proposed fund transfers, and these will be for each individual Board to approve. The suggested transfers ensure a General Fund position of @20% of budgeted turnover, a reasonable Emergency Events reserve balance, a Self-Insurance reserve to mitigate against future reductions in insurance cover especially regarding flood risk, and to address current known shortfalls arising in a couple of years in the Plant & Machinery reserve, used to fund the annual Plant Programmes.

The major impact on both income and expenditure during 2024/25 has been the FDGIA Storm Recovery monies and the IDB Fund Recovery, Resilience and Innovation funding which has reached £91m for IDBs, with the Witham and Humber group of Boards being very successful with their Expressions of Interests for funding at £17.4 million. This has increased the turnover of the Boards significantly in 2024/25.

Board	Turnover 2024/25	Turnover 2023/24	Turnover 2022/23	Turnover 2021/22
NEL	£1,516,315	£1,183,261	£1,118,904	£875,641
UW	£5,582,743	£2,058,900	£2,104,380	£1,731,952
W1	£3,515,904	£1,755,139	£1,270,180	£1,107,185
W3	£7,018,816	£2,305,778	£1,928,966	£1,744,739
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£17,633,778</b>	<b>£7,303,078</b>	<b>£6,422,430</b>	<b>£5,459,517</b>

The previous table shows how the turnover of the Boards in 2024/25 has been significant compared to previous years, and this is likely to continue in 2025/26 as further IDB grant is received to complete the remaining IDB Fund schemes.

### Highland Water Claims:

After further discussions and providing detailed calculations, the Highland Water Claims to the EA relating to 2023/24 actuals and 80% of the estimate for 2024/25 due for payment in September 2025 were finally received on 26th February 2025. These amounts are included in these outturn positions.

The claims have been prepared for the 2024/25 actual position and the Estimate for 2025/26. As expected, these have reduced in comparison to last year, mainly due to reduced electricity costs (usage and rates) and expenditure recovered through the grant schemes which would have ordinarily fallen upon the Boards to resource (e.g. bank slips, pump lifts, etc).

The Highland Water claims submitted in May for 2025 are as follows:

Board	Estimate 24/25	Actual 24/25	Variance 24/25	Estimate 25/26
NEL	£131,500	£82,627	(£48,873)	130,000
UW	£282,000	£257,073	(£24,627)	290,300
W1	£32,600	£25,376	(£7,224)	33,000
W3	£395,000	£361,532	(£33,468)	377,500

### Electricity:

The following table sets out electricity costs by Board for 01st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 usage, so includes new standing charges/rates from 01st October 2024):

Board	Full Year Budget	Actual	Variance
NEL	£90,000	£39,095	(£50,905)
UW	£192,000	£125,109	(£66,890)
W1	£335,500	£263,830	(£71,670)
W3	£220,000	£144,097	(£75,903)

Members were reminded that new usage rates and standing/KVA charges commenced from 1st October 2024, but the most significant factor is that apart from the wet weather in January, there has been a relatively dry winter/spring which has benefitted the Boards' electricity usage.

### Drainage Rate Collection:

The following table sets out the Drainage Rate collection rate 2024/25, as of 31st March 2025 (previous years shown for comparison as at 31st March):

Board	Collection rate 24/25	Collection rate 23/24	Collection rate 22/23
NEL	<b>99.9%</b>	95.7%	95.3%
UW	<b>93.8%</b>	96.0%	98.6%
W1	<b>99.0%</b>	99.6%	99.0%
W3	<b>100.1%</b>	99.8%	99.4%

The Boards have been part of a joint initiative with the Ouse & Humber IDBs, York Consortium IDBs and South Holland IDB (18 IDBs in total) to develop a new drainage ratings system, known as the Ratings Management System (RMS). This has been a very successful project, with the new system going live from April. This year's rate demands have been produced and issued from this new system. RMS has cost £60k in external

fees, which has been recharged proportionally across the IDBs (so £16.3k contribution from W&HDBs].

#### Reserves:

Members were reminded that the Board has a General Reserve Policy of 15% to 20% of budgeted annual income/expenditure which currently has an allocation of (£280,114). The surplus of (£37,058) will increase the balance to (£317,172), which is 19.02% of 2024/25 estimated income and expenditure of (£1,667,354). The Board makes an annual contribution of £75k to the General Reserve, so this will increase to 22.59% in 2025/26.

Other earmarked reserves exist for Plant & Machinery replacements (£192k), Pumping Station Renewal/Capital Programme (£399k), AWC renewal (£216k), One-Off projects/FDGIA/IDB Fund (£170k), Emergency Events (£281k) and Commuted Sums (£105k). The full schedule was shown in the Annual Report 2024/25.

It is proposed that transfers of £50k to the Self Insurance Reserve, £100k to the Plant & Machinery Reserve and £75k to the Pumping Stations Reserve are approved as part of this report.

Members were advised that if funds are required, then the Board can approve movements between the reserves at any time so these allocations can be changed in the future.

Members discussed and reviewed the unaudited 2024/25 Annual Report and Accounts. This is provided for information only, and its status remains unaudited. The report covers a narrative of what has been undertaken, and which Members have served on the Board during the financial year, plus the unaudited financial statements and accompanying notes. The full document will be loaded onto the Board's website.

As part of this report the Policy on capitalising asset expenditure over £6k has been amended for the items purchased through the IDB Fund grant, where these have been fully depreciated in year and therefore will not provide funding for their future replacement. Should these items need replacing then resources will need to be identified at that time to fund the replacement purchases.

Following discussion Members **NOTED** the 2024/25 financial performance for the period 01st April 2024 to 31st March 2025; **APPROVED** the additional fund transfers of £50k to the Self Insurance Reserve, £100k to the Plant & Machinery Reserve and £75k to the Pumping Station Reserve; **NOTED** the Governance update; **REVIEWED AND NOTED** the Schedules of Expenditure incurred 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025 and **NOTED** the unaudited Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/25.

#### **2767 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25.**

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

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2024/25 is a document for Members to complete and approve. It is incorporated within and forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2024/25. The Board has a statutory requirement to complete and approve the AGAR, which was listed elsewhere on the Agenda.

The AGS part must be approved prior to the Accounting Statements, either at separate meetings or in the same meeting but with the correct order of business on the agenda and this must be evidenced by the meeting minute references and/or dates.

The AGR comprises 9 assertions (number 9 is not applicable to IDBs) which the Board must consider and agree or provide a detailed explanation for the external auditor where it cannot agree and how it will address any weaknesses identified.

Once agreed, the Accounting Statements and complete AGAR may be approved.

The Chairman took Members through the relevant 8 statements and the response to each was agreed.

### **2768 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25.**

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

Members were presented for completion the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2024/25. The Board has a statutory requirement to complete and approve the AGAR.

The AGAR has 4 separate sections and normally needs to be approved at a full Board meeting before 01st July 2025. It also must be submitted, along with additional requested information, to the nationally appointed External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP by 01st July 2025 for their review. Alongside this, the rights of public inspection will also commence on Monday 09th June 2025 until Friday 18th July 2025. This period incorporates the first 10 working days of July, as required by statute.

The AGAR comprises of the following key sections:

- Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25
- Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25
- Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25
- Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2024/25

The Annual Internal Audit Report has been completed by the Internal Auditor, Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd, as presented earlier to Members by Chris Harris.

The Annual Governance Statement [AGS] is a separate item on the agenda and was approved before the AGAR is approved in full.

Accounting Statements utilises the information used in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts which appears elsewhere on this Agenda.

Once approved, the document is published on the Board's website to meet its requirements under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This will be Friday 06th June 2025.

The statutory deadline by which the AGAR and signed external auditor report and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit must be published is 30th September 2025.

Following discussion, the Board **APPROVED** the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25 for publishing on the Board's website along with the notice to commence the period of public rights from 06th June 2025.

Bridget Maplethorpe requested that an explanation of the surplus for 2024/25 be published alongside the AGAR on the website and this was agreed.

### **2769 Operations Report, including Health & Safety.**

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

During the H&S visits by Cope H&S Consultancy there had been no significant findings.

Pleasingly, there had been no reported incidents for the Board since January 2025.

All 4 Boards are preparing for the start of the vegetation maintenance season; this is the time to repair and maintain all the flails and weed baskets in preparation. The IDB fund work for the Operatives has slowed down, with the completion of some of the schemes at 31.03.25. All the contractors undertaking bank slip repairs have finished their programmed work and we have taken delivery of all the new mobile pumps and generators ordered. Woodhall Depot is currently full of stock for future bank repair works [timber, sheet piles, stone], this stock is held for all 4 Boards' use. The annual pre-season operational team briefings are booked in for the 4 Boards, we always include Carnaby's (NEL's approved contractor) in this training. These briefings are about creating awareness of hazards and environmental issues, for example overhead cables, working near open channels, lone working. For environmental updates we discuss bird nesting forms, working around badger sets, water vole habitat and about not damaging the toe of the banks, non-native invasive species awareness and reporting and biosecurity measures.

#### **Staffing:**

Richard Marshall, the Board's [working] Foreman, has decided to retire on 11th August 2025. Richard has worked for Witham First for 25 years and has been Foreman for 15 years. The replacement role has been advertised internally throughout the 4 Boards, and 7 applicants will be interviewed at the end of May.

#### **Depot:**

The sheds at Walcott Bank Depot have now been taken down and the site cleared at a cost of £21,000. This now stops rates being paid on the empty sheds at circa £10k per annum. The site remains an operational site for Timberland Pumping Station. Discussion took place on use for the site – currently the site will be retained and used for storage and as a contractor base, the difficult access to the site was noted and this made the option of lease / rent unlikely.

#### **Public Sector Cooperation Agreement [PSCA] works:**

Estimates have been provided to the EA for a similar amount of PSCA work in 2025/26 as in previous years on all the Boards and it had initially been confirmed verbally that the EA wanted to commission the work again this year. Extra time was committed to requesting some works, due to the quotes having to be signed off by a DEFRA Commercial 5-year review this year.

The quotes submitted were:

NEL: £156,026.84  
UW: £216,471.10  
**W1: £107,896.53**  
W3: £318,568.84

However, we have now been informed that EA funding restrictions for maintenance on main rivers in the Witham catchment mean they have reduced the programme for the Witham Boards.

The 'medium consequence systems' systems with no current funding for maintenance are:

Digby Beck Grass Embankment 2286m 2 x year  
Digby Beck Grass channel cut 1749m 1 x year  
Digby Beck Weed Cut 633m 3 x year  
Digby Beck Grass/Weed handwork 1223m 1 x year  
Sandhill Beck Grass Embankment 220m 3 x year  
Sandhill Beck Grass channel cut 1749m 1 x year  
Sandhill Beck Weed cut 902m 1 x year

**Income reduction to Witham First is £20,033.12.** But the EA is also looking to reduce the work undertaken on Anwick Catchwater and Farroway, so there will be further stretches of unmaintained main river and further reductions in income to the Board.

Cllr Head asked if Officers had approached Anglian Water regarding this as they have a new water treatment plant at Anwick – it was confirmed that yes, officers work very closely with AWS and are completing some works for them.

Jane Froggatt advised that the issue would be raised at the Joint Lincolnshire Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Group. David Armstrong encouraged all members to please raise the issue with their contacts at partner agencies.

The most concerning issue in this reduction in PSCA works on EA main rivers is the lack of maintenance on EA systems that have a very direct effect on the 4 Boards' maintained systems. Examples of this include Sandhill Beck on Witham First. This has a spillway into the Board's system, so if Sandhill Beck does not receive a weed cut the potential for overtopping of the spillway increases significantly and additional water would need pumping away by the Board's Sandhill Pump (currently a single pump station which has struggled with inundation in recent flood events).

Anglian Water have accepted a quote for circa £1,200 to flail and weed cut a short section of roadside dyke in Anwick, close to their treatment works.

Witham First are sourcing a contractor to undertake work at Holdingham near Sleaford on behalf of LCC. The brick arch culvert has deteriorated, and Officers are awaiting quotes.

Members received, discussed at length and NOTED the Operations Report and update.

### **2770 Capital Programme Report.**

A report had been circulated with the agenda and was jointly presented by the Director of Finance & Governance, the Director of Engineering & Technical Services and the Director of Operations.

The Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) programme is administered by the Environment Agency (EA) on behalf of Defra and applications to claim GIA are approved by the EA.

#### Capital Programme Refresh – Indicative Allocation September 2025:

We are waiting for the Grant in Aid allocation for 2025/2026 to be confirmed by the EA. Early indications are that FDGiA funding may be reduced or removed in 2025/26 onwards.

The indicative allocation for 2025/26 was received from the EA on 16 January 2025. This is significantly less than the request for funding we made in May 2024.

The funding received was outlined as follows:

<b>Witham 1st</b>	<b>Timberland PS</b>	<b>£511,079</b>
Witham 3rd	Woodhall Spa PS	£513,640
Upper Witham		£0
North East Lindsey		£0

#### Department for Education Funding

A funding bid for five schemes within the Boards was submitted in September 2024 for Department for Education (DfE) funding for flood defence schemes providing flood risk benefits to schools. The following schemes were successful in receiving funding, totalling £800,000.

North East Lindsey	Mawmbridge PS	£100,000
North East Lindsey	Immingham PS	£200,000
Upper Witham	Saxilby PS	£100,000
Witham 1 <sup>st</sup>	Timberland & Billingham PS	£200,000
Witham 3rd	Woodhall Spa PS	£200,000

We are currently in discussion with the EA to determine how we continue to progress our capital programmes, given this changes those programmes considerably from previously available grant levels under the previous 6-year programme.

#### Timberland & Billingham PS Refurbishment:

IDB No	FD 533-2020-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC403I/002A/051A & ANC403I/002A/041A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0408
GIA Approval Amount	£183,000
Project Stage	OBC Development

The Outline Business Case (OBC) has been submitted to the EA for approval, we are currently awaiting their feedback on the scheme proposed. It is anticipated the approval will be granted in early June 2025.

The preferred option is to replace both pumping stations with new fish friendly variable speed pumps, new MCC. At Timberland the AWC will be refurbished and resilience to overtopping of the River Witham by raising the vulnerable equipment above the maximum flood level will be provided. At Billingham the resilience measures will be limited to raising equipment as high as possible within the current building.

A summary of the key information for the scheme is:

	<b>Combined Scheme</b>
Total Project Cost	£4,899,800
GIA approval amount	£4,699,800
Department for Education funding	£200,000
OM1A Benefits	£76,077,049
Duration of Benefits	5 years
OM1B (People related)	£1,041,504
OM2A(Residential properties)	80
Cost Benefit Ratio	15.4
Raw Partnership Funding Score	99%
Adjusted Partnership Funding Score	103%

**Income and spend as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024:**

<b>Billingham &amp; Timberland Catchment Review</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Grant Received	(£183,000)	(£183,000)	£0
Consultants Fees	£183,000	£78,439	(£104,561)
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£104,561)</b>	<b>(£104,561)</b>

Lowland Peat Projects (LAPSIP) 2 Projects (Completed)

Tyndalls Bankside:

The Tilting Weir for Tyndells Witham Bankside has been installed and is operational. Final claims have been submitted to and paid by DEFRA.

**Income and spend as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:**

<b>LAPSIP - Tilting Weir - Tyndells Bank</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
FDGIA Grant	(£108,900)	(£108,900)	£0
Equipment & Installation	£108,900	£120,329	£11,429
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£11,429</b>	<b>£11,429</b>

Nocton Fen:

The Nocton Fen (Engine drain No1) tilting weir has been installed and is operational, it needs to be integrated into the telemetry system.

**Income and spend as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025:**

<b>LAPSIP - Tilting Weir - Nocton</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
FDGIA Grant	(£78,864)	(£78,864)	£0
Equipment & Installation	£78,864	£79,082	£218
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£218</b>	<b>£218</b>

Whilst both schemes are showing modest overspends, all external costs were covered by the grant, so it is only internal project management costs which have not been fully covered.



### Metheringham PS Refurbishment:

IDB No	FD-1143-2014-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC403I/002A/046A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0461
GIA Approval Amount	£163,000 (+ Board contribution 5k)
Project Stage	Complete

The leaking flap valves have been replaced.

Income and spend as at 31st March 2025:

<b><i>Metheringham PS FDGIA Scheme</i></b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income	(£168,000)	(£168,000)	£0
Expenditure	£168,000	£163,098	(£4,902)
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£4,902)</b>	<b>(£4,902)</b>

### Telemetry (W1):

IDB No	JA-1583-2014-ASS
EA National Project No	ANC501E/000A/188A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0555
GIA Approval Amount	£167,500
Project Stage	Delivery

Contractors Xylem and Paktronic have installed and commissioned all the new telemetry. This includes the following:

- 1 pumping station had Flygt (Xylem) APP software upgraded
- 5 pumping stations had Xylem ATUs installed
- 6 pumping stations had Xylem Nexicon units installed
- 6 pumping stations also had Vaga radar level monitoring heads installed

The project completion forms FCERM 5 & 8 have been submitted to the EA for approval.

Income and spend as at 31st March 2025:

<b><i>Telemetry</i></b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
FDGIA Grant	(£167,500)	(£167,500)	£0
Equipment & Installation	£167,500	£167,559	£59
<b>Net</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£59</b>	<b>£59</b>

### Storm Babet Recovery – FDGIA Schemes:

Following Storm Babet recovery work to 18 locations across three of the 4 Boards [not NELDB] was approved via the FDGIA funding route. There are no time constraints or deadlines for these projects, unlike some of the other schemes and the IDB £75million Fund schemes.

### Sandhill Pumping Station (Completed)

The pump and motor have undergone refurbishment and have had some resilience built in; the motor has been sat on approx. a 600mm pedestal and has had an external greasing point added @ a cost of £18,850. The access culvert into the compound has been extended

allowing better access for mobile pumping plant. The track has also been levelled, and new fencing will be installed around the site. **Total costs £49,256.**

#### Farroway Pumping station (Ongoing)

The pump control panel had 2 x doors overheat and burnt out the electronics within the doors, these have both been replaced at a cost of @£18,210. The motor has been refurbished £22,750. Some civils work undertaken and the track has also been levelled. **Spend to date £49,009.**

#### Blankney Pumping Station (Ongoing)

The 2 x motors at Blankney need refurbishing: 1 x motor has gone away, and the second will follow upon reinstatement of the first motor. Ongoing issues with the contractor undertaking the motor refurbishment has led to delays in reinstatement, the current position has the motor being reinstated in May. The fence around the station has been replaced @ a cost of £9,115 and the track has been levelled. **Spend to date £16,486.**

#### Heighington Pumping Station (Ongoing)

The 2 x pumps and motors need refurbishment at Heighington, 1 x pump and motor have been refurbished @£37,760 and the second will follow shortly. The compound has been refenced @ a cost of £5,763 and the track has been levelled. **Spend to date £54,411.**

#### IDB Recovery Fund:

In February 2024 the government announced a £75m funding pot to assist IDBs in recovering from the flooding experienced over the winter of 2023/24. This fund is provided through DEFRA and is being administered by the EA.

The funding was allocated to two tranches, the first of approximately £25m being focused on recovery works to assets damaged by the storms and the second of approximately £50m concentrated on the improvement of assets to provide better resilience to flooding. The original timescale for bids and approvals was set out for members, as follows:

21 May 2024	Issue of funding prospectus & EOI forms & Application window opened.
07 June	Application deadline Tranche 1
28 June	Application deadline Tranche 2A
End June	Award of Tranche 1 projects
End July	Award of Tranche 2A projects [subsequently delayed to 14.11.24]
End March 2025	Completion of Works

Witham & Humber Drainage Boards bid for 23 projects totalling £4.4m in tranche 1 and a further 13 projects totalling £10.7m in Tranche 2. The Boards were awarded £4.1m in tranche 1 and £6.6m in tranche 2A. All works to be completed and paid for by 31.03.25.

Witham & Humber Drainage Boards bid for 23 projects totalling £4.4m in tranche 1 and a further 13 projects totalling £10.7m in Tranche 2. The Boards were awarded £4.1m (subsequently increased to £4.3m) in Tranche 1 and £6.6m (subsequently reduced to 6.5m) in tranche 2A. All works to be completed and paid for by 31.03.25.

At the ADA Conference on 13th November, Floods Minister Emma Hardy, who the Boards hosted for a visit on 22nd February 2024 following Storms Babet and Henk, announced that the Tranche 2 schemes would be progressing. We subsequently received confirmation on 14th November of the schemes that had been approved, now known as tranche 2A approvals. She also announced a further round of Tranche 2 funding (to be known as

Tranche 2B) with a submission deadline of 31st January 2025. These schemes had to be delivered and completed by 31st March 2026. Of the 5 schemes submitted, the Boards were successful in 2 schemes totalling £3.3m. 1 scheme was withdrawn as it was subsequently funded through Tranche 2A.

On 31st March 2025, a further amount of an additional £16m of funding was announced by the Government bringing the total IDB Fund to £91m. This additional funding meant that some schemes not approved under the original Tranche 2B were subsequently approved. The Boards' remaining 2 schemes were approved totalling £3.4m.

Following pressure by Officers regarding the delivery timescales, in March 2025 the IDB Fund agreed to extend the timescale on some of the Tranche 1 and 2A schemes. A submission was made to the IDB Fund detailing the schemes to be extended, the reasons, risks and impact. This submission was successful, so a few schemes have been extended beyond 31st March 2025.

#### Bank Slip Repairs:

Slip repairs have been undertaken by contractors on all the Boards. On North East Lindsey they had Carnaby's (the current main contractor), on Upper Witham we had Steve Hill contracting and Will Timmins Contractors, on Witham First we used Maine Agri and on Witham Third Mill Farm Services. Spence Bros have undertaken works on various Boards. We supplied all the materials from stocks of timber, 5' stakes, 10' & 14' fir piles, back boarding, frost proof lump stone, clay and topsoil. On top of the stock we hold in the depot we have had deliveries direct to site.

Following the weedcutting season some works were undertaken by our own operatives and machinery.

Some larger repairs were undertaken through this funding in Minting Village, also on Minting /Gautby Beck downstream of the village, All Hallows Drain, and Tillbridge Lane. The timber revetment at Minting Beck has been replaced with steel sheet piling, this project is now complete.

The total amount spent on bank slips for contractors, materials and project management is **£1,649,485**

#### Mobile Pumps (W3 – T1 Completed)

New additional mobile pumps have been delivered; 1 x 4" pump, 1 x 6" pump and 1 x 8" pump on road towable trailers in quiet canopies, with telemetry, all required hoses and fittings and 2 x fish /eel baskets. We have also purchased some flat big-ab roll on roll off trailer bodies to put our older pumps onto and 2 x 900 litre fuel cubes to assist with running the pumps during an event and an additional fuel bowser (UW). **Total costs £231,657.**

#### Additional Mobile Pump capacity (UW – T2 Completed)

New additional mobile pumps have been delivered; 4 x 6", 5 x 8" and 2 x 12" mobile pumps c/w all pipework and fittings, 4x mobile generators, 6 x big ab trailer bodies, 2 x mobile lighting towers, a mobile crawler crane with trailer and a replacement teleporter (W3). Additional racking and security for the depots and storage stillages. Total costs £1,132,451.

#### Farroway Pumping Station (T1 Completed)

Renew damaged weed screen deck and bridge over Anwick Fen drain and renew damaged weed screens on Ruskington Fen and Anwick Fen. **Total costs £143,139.** An underspend of £14,861 has been returned to the IDB Fund.

Timberland Pumping Station (T1 Completed)

Refurbishment of pump and motor plus civils works to the outfall. **Total costs £68,947.**

Branston Syphon Breakers (T2 Completed)

Installation of 2 new flap valves to prevent water syphoning back through the pumping station during high water levels. **Total costs £41,924.**

Tranche 2A Sandhill Beck Pumping Station W1:

A 12" electric mobile pump c/w pipework, fish screen (both delivered) and electric panel will be permanently installed at the station, mounted on a steel frame and concrete pad. This pump is to aid the recovery of the land in the Sandhill area following a flood event, it will not help prevent the land flooding, only aid its recovery. **Cost to date £125,701.**

Replacement Archimedes Screw Pumps at Fen Lane & Decoy Pumping Stations (UW) and North Kyme (W1) AT2B - 018

New Archimedes screw pumps will be installed at Fen Lane and Decoy (UW) and North Kyme (W1). The timescales will be tight due to the lead time on the pumps so they will not be installed until winter 2025/2026. Ahead of these, groundworks will need to take place to prepare the bases for the pumps to sit on and at Decoy a HV electrical cable needs to be rerouted.

Water Level Control Structures & Penstock Automation at various locations (W1) AT2B-062

This scheme will be across all the Boards and will upgrade/replace/install new water control structures at various locations. The locations are currently being discussed to address any current asset failures or operational needs.

Members NOTED the report on Capital projects.

**2771 Engineering Report.**

A combined report including the Environment Updates, Planning & Consultations and Consents & Enforcements had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Engineering & Technical Services.

Owl Box Monitoring and Maintenance Update:

In the coming months, the Board will conduct its annual owl box inspection in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Partnership. The results and analysis will be presented at the November Board meetings.

Where possible, damaged boxes have been replaced with new ones. However, some older boxes remain in use due to various constraints. Surplus boxes will be used over the winter to replace additional units, reducing the need for new purchases.

Several pumping stations are scheduled for major works this summer. To prevent disruption and delays, owl boxes at these sites were either removed or sealed ahead of the nesting season.

Mink Update:

Mink trapping efforts across Lincolnshire remain successful, with captures likely having reached their peak. The number of Mink trapped within the county of Lincolnshire between January 01<sup>st</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> has fallen considerably from last year (441 to 83). This stark drop highlights the success of the project thus far. The Waterlife Recovery Trust, which coordinates the trapping programme, is always seeking landowners willing to host mink rafts. If any members are interested in volunteering to host a raft, please contact the 4 Boards' Environment Officer who will pass you on to the relevant project officer. Cllr Mervyn Head asked to be put in touch with the contact person so he can publish details in the North Kesteven District Council Parish Council newsletters.

#### Floating Pennywort Update:

Floating Pennywort continues to pose a significant challenge, as it's notoriously difficult to control with herbicides. There is growing evidence that, over time, the plant can develop resistance to Glyphosate. In response, the EA is working to develop the use of Triclopyr, which may become available under a species control order specifically targeting Floating Pennywort.

In addition, changes are coming to the herbicide licensing process. Currently, licences must be renewed annually using a cumbersome PDF form. While the process will remain annual, it is being digitised, with the promise of a much more streamlined and user-friendly renewal system.

In some EA areas, Floating Pennywort is increasingly being recognised as a contributor to flood risk, adding urgency to efforts to manage its spread.

Cllrs Ken Fernandes and Mike Clarke both queried if there was a natural solution to the issue.

#### License Approvals for 2025:

The Environment officer had successfully received license extensions for the coming year. These include:

- Water voles: licence to displace them for work on flood defences, water courses or drainage systems (CL24).
- Licence to interfere with badger setts for watercourse and drainage purposes (CL27)
- A new license has been granted allowing the Board to mitigate against the impacts of newly reintroduced Beavers:  
Beavers: licence to modify or remove dams, burrows and lodges (CL51)  
There is currently no known Beaver release planned in Lincolnshire. The Board should be consulted prior to any planned release.

#### Ecological Surveys Update:

The Boards' Environment Officer continues to conduct ecological surveys ahead of any works that could impact local wildlife. The following surveys have been carried out between the last Board meetings and early April

- Todhill Drain
- Timberland Pumping Station
- Top Twelve Foot Drain
- Metherringham Fen
- Branston Sewer
- Dogdyke Diesel Culvert

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

**2772 Any Other Business.**

- 2772.1 Val Stanton asked if the EA was demaining to IDBs. The Chief Executive confirmed there had been some talk nationally, but it was moving slowly and required legislation. Perhaps what may be more useful is for IDBs to undertake works on main rivers, using the PSCAs as a vehicle for doing this maintenance. Our reservation in formal demaining might well be the taking on any responsibility for main river embankments.

There were no further items of business, and the meeting closed at 16:25.

**2773 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025\* at 2pm in Branston Booths Village Hall.

*\*Post meeting note: date changed to **THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025** due to clash with ADA Flood & Water Conference in London\**

 ..... Chairman 27.11.25. ..... Date  
W1st BM 20.05.2025.