

## NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD

### Minutes of a meeting of North East Lindsey Drainage Board held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in Stallingborough Grange Hotel at 2pm.

Present: Cllr P Bright  
Cllr P Clark  
Mr E Faulding  
Mr J Finch  
Mr J Fussey  
Mr L Grooby  
Mr P Hoyes  
Mr R Kirk  
Cllr N Pettigrew  
Mr S Shepherd

**Chairman**  
**Vice Chairman**

In Attendance: Mr Ian Coupland, Director of Operations.  
Ms. Jayne Flower, Executive Assistant  
Mrs. Jane Froggatt, Chief Executive  
Mr. Steve Larter, Director of Finance & Governance  
Mr Martin Shilling, Director of Engineering & Technical Services

#### 1. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Harness, Cllr R Hannigan, Cllr D Humphrey, Cllr B Parkinson, Cllr M Patrick and Cllr D Wells.

#### 2. Declaration of Members' Interests.

Members nominated by North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils declared interests relating to their respective Councils.

#### 3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Members to the January meeting, traditionally at this meeting the focus is to set a financially balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year from April. There is a legal duty to do so and to publicise this and drainage rates and special levies for the 3 councils by 15th February each year.

This year officers were recommending to the Board a **3.50% increase** in the Penny Rate. A 4.75% increase was approved by Upper Witham and Witham Third Boards this week, whilst in Witham First a 4.50% increase in the Penny Rate was approved in order to set a balanced budget for 2026/27.

The Chairman was pleased that a balanced budget could be set for each Board at a more reasonable level this year.

Members would receive updates on progress on Capital Schemes today, both those funded from Flood Defence Grant in Aid monies, like Immingham and Mawmbridge Pumping Station schemes, and those funded via the 4 Witham & Humber Boards' bids for national monies from the one-off national £91million IDB Fund.

It was highlighted to Members that there was a request for the Board to adopt and schedule a length of watercourse for future maintenance, also on today's agenda.

Finally, the Chairman reminded members about the importance of Board attendance and that the Board still has vacant seats for directly elected members, so if members were aware of interested people to please speak to either him or Jane Froggatt.

#### **4. Minutes of the Board meeting and Annual Public Meeting, 26.11.25.**

The minutes of the Board's previous meeting, incorporating the Annual Public Meeting, held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025, were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

##### *MATTERS ARISING:*

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

#### **5. Minutes of the Joint Services Committee Meeting, 08.12.25.**

The minutes of the Joint Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 08<sup>th</sup> December 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

##### *MATTERS ARISING:*

##### **5.1 2025/26 Joint Services Budget Monitoring Report as at 30.09.25**

It was highlighted to members that the approved JSC annual total budget for 2025/26 is £1,418,380. Performance was on target with a small positive variance of (£2,429) or (-0.33%) to month six as of 30.09.25. This is a healthy position with individual Board positions being equally healthy.

##### **5.2 Joint Services Budget for 2026/27 and Estimates 2026/27.**

The Chief Executive had advised members that the proposed 2026/27 budget of £1,474,930 is an increase of £56,550 (3.99%) on the approved 2025/26 budget of £1,418,380. This increase is due to:

- Staffing costs – approved pay award of 5% from 01.04.26, incremental point movement for some staff, an additional post of depots administrator.
- General Inflation cost increases and assumptions like increased insurance renewal costs.

New Pension contribution rates had been received for the next 3 years from 01st April 2026, following the LGPS triennial review. These have reduced for all 4 Boards from the previous rates. It was hoped to move to a consistent 'pooled' rate across the 4 Boards, but the differential to the individual rates is still too much for this to be reasonable to all Boards. Therefore, the rates to be used were outlined as follows:

### Employer Pension Contribution Rates

	NEL	UW	W1	W3	Pooled
<b>Current Rates (2025/26)</b>					
Primary %	25.1%	24.1%	30.1%	23.5%	
Secondary %	-4.4%		-10.8%		
Secondary £		£ 11,000	£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	
<b>2026/27</b>					
Primary %	22.1%	19.6%	21.9%	18.0%	18.8%
Secondary %	-12.1%		-8.4%		
Secondary £			£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	
<b>2027/28</b>					
Primary %	22.1%	19.6%	21.9%	18.0%	18.8%
Secondary %	-12.1%		-8.4%		
Secondary £			£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	
<b>2028/29</b>					
Primary %	22.1%	19.6%	21.9%	18.0%	18.8%
Secondary %	-12.1%		-8.4%		
Secondary £			£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	

Due to the significant reduction in the NEL and W1 rates, it is proposed to budget for these at 16% rather than 10% and 13.5% respectively, as there is a risk the rates could increase again in 3 years' time at the next pension triennial valuation exercise. The Boards will pay the reduced rates indicated, but the full reduction will not be reflected in the reduced budget.

These charges had been apportioned in the agreed proportions and incorporated into each Board's Budget Estimates for 2026/27, which are on today's agenda.

The preparation of individual Board's estimates was underway, and the JSC had been briefed on the budget assumptions:

- Pay award (approved 5.0%) and new Pension rates.
- Electricity increases (assumed 01st October 2025 average unit price remains at 20p and further 10% on 01st October 2025 standing charges/KVA from 01st October 2026).
- Insurance costs - assumed last year's actual renewal costs +10%.
- Servicing and Maintenance costs of plant and machinery.
- Depreciation to reflect approved plant programmes
- General inflationary cost pressures.

The JSC had supported the JSC budget as set out and JSC members had recommended that each of the 4 Boards APPROVE the proposed JSC budgets, set out within the individual Board's Estimates 2026/27.

### 5.3 Audit Plan 2026/27

An Internal Audit contract was procured jointly with the other Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire IDBs and was awarded to Lighthouse UK Consultancy Ltd from 01st November 2024. This covers the 5 financial years 2024/25 to 2028/29. There is an option to extend the contract for a further 2 years to 2030/31.

The Audit Programme had already been agreed for the current financial year 2025/26. The Internal Auditor will be undertaking the bulk of the work during the two weeks 02nd to 13th March 2026, including some onsite presence.

Smaller authorities are required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to 'undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance'.

Internal Audit is a key part of the Governance of the Board and Members were reminded should they have any concerns regarding the running or financial affairs of the Board then they have the right of direct access to the Internal Auditor.

Members of JSC had received and APPROVED the 2026/27 Internal Audit Plan on behalf of the 4 IDBs.

The discussions and recommendations from the JSC meeting on 08<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were noted.

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

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda, and the following items were highlighted:

### **6.1 Board Membership.**

North East Lindsey has the following 3 vacant seats:

- Barton upon Humber, Barrow Upon Humber & South Ferriby
- Brocklesby, Habrough, Keelby, Kirmington, North Killingholme & South Killingholme
- Barnoldby, Bradley, Cleethorpes, Humberston, Irby, Laceby, Riby, Waltham & Weelsby

As mentioned by the Chairman, if members were aware of people who may be interested in Board membership, please pass on details.

### **6.2 All-Party Parliamentary Group Presentation on Wednesday, 10.12.25.**

The Chief Executive highlighted to Members a presentation she had given to the APPG recently. Innes Thomson, ADA's CEO, contacted her about the APPG [on Sustainable Flood and Drought Management] meeting in London on Wednesday, 10th December. The APPG meets 3 or 4 times a year.

She and Somerset IDBs' CEO Iain Sturdy had made a short presentation, followed by questions from the Group of cross-party MPs about the impact of reduced EA maintenance happening on some main rivers.

The title for the presentation was "the impact of reduced main river maintenance on lowland systems and assets".

The APPG's stated purpose is: "to provide a forum for the discussion and progression of lowland sustainable water level management policies and to improve preparedness in the UK for global warming and its weather extremes".

Leigh Edlin, Area Director at the EA, had been briefed on this opportunity to present facts and data about the challenges we collectively face in a low-lying area like Lincolnshire, the benefit of added resilience from the one-off IDB Fund and schemes but the limitations to our maintenance and increased future risks if main rivers are not to be maintained.

The CEO had met Pete Reilly, Operations Manager for the EA, ahead of the presentation to gather facts & data which the Area team would be comfortable to be used in the presentation.

This was an opportunity to present facts about the challenges we collectively face in our rural communities where current funding formulae do not support a level of revenue EA maintenance any of us would wish to see, particularly on embanked watercourses behind which sit productive agricultural businesses feeding the nation with staple food crops, but insufficient houses to qualify for the level of maintenance required; increasing the risk level to IDB systems and assets and to our stakeholder landowners and Special Levy paying local councils.

Both presentations had been circulated with the electronic versions of this Board Pack. The links to the two presentations, for Lincolnshire and Iain Sturdy's for Somerset are available on the 4 Boards' website at [www.witham3idb.gov.uk](http://www.witham3idb.gov.uk)

There was much discussion regarding the EA and Steve Shepherd asked why the EA are withdrawing maintenance and it was clarified as simply being a lack of funding given the current national funding criteria for maintenance of main rivers. But the impact on IDB systems is high risk. It was confirmed this is a key issue on which ADA is lobbying nationally.

### 6.3 2025/26 Financial Positions as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 (Month 9).

The 4 Witham & Humber Drainage Boards were all in a healthy financial position as at month 9 2025/26, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Each has a modest positive variance from month 9 profiled budget spend, as follows:

- Upper Witham IDB – (£56,454)
- Witham Third DIB – (64,982)
- Witham First DIB – (£65,052)
- **North East Lindsey IDB – (£56,219)**

These positions are stated after neutralising the impact of the one-off capital funding coming into Boards for FDGiA schemes and the 33 IDB Fund schemes.

This year we are in year 2 of the 2-year IDB Fund Schemes, all 33 of which in our Boards are to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. There are, therefore, tranches of IDB Fund monies coming into the Boards which we are investing wherever possible on a short-term basis whilst preserving necessary liquidity to

be able to pay the higher than usual invoices for capital works like new pumps and civils works at our pumping stations.

#### 6.4 National Study on IDB Funding & Costs.

Defra and MHCLG have jointly commissioned a study into the future of IDB Funding and Costs. The study is being led by consultants ICF, working with Logika. The brief communicated to IDBs is that the appraisal will consider IDBs' operations focusing on financial efficiency, value for money and the broader benefits that IDBs deliver. The research has 3 stated core objectives, as follows:

- IDB Funding & Financial Appraisal: to analyse IDB funding mechanisms, operational costs and financial pressures over the past decade, and explore future funding options.
- Benefit Evaluation: to assess the economic and social value of IDBs' work, both locally and nationally.
- Data modernisation: to explore how the IDB 1 forms can be improved and modernised to improve data collection and reporting.

We were contacted by Nicola Haysey, Senior Consultant for Public Policy at ICF on 08th January 2026, advising that they are conducting case studies on a selection of IDBs across the country.

They would like to include Upper Witham as a case study for this project, to delve deeper into some of the work that we do and the challenges faced. The case study will consist of a visit to the IDB by two members of the ICF research team on 17<sup>th</sup> February. They want to speak with a variety of people involved in running the IDB, including anyone involved in the day-to-day running, managing, administration and operational activities, as well as other relevant stakeholders that we work closely with.

Whilst we were pleased to have Upper Witham IDB, one of our four IDBs in the W&HDB selected, we are encouraging them to review our consortium arrangement and broaden the scope of the visit to cover all 4 IDBs here (Witham First DIDB, Witham Third DIDB, Upper Witham IDB and North East Lindsey DB).

The Chief Executive's report and update was received and NOTED.

#### 7. 2025/26 Financial Report as at 31st December 2025, Month 9.

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

The financial performance as of 31st December 2025 was summarised as:

Profiled Budget P7 £	Actual (Surplus)/Deficit £	Variance £
(370,437)	(426,656)	<b>(56,219)</b>

The Board is in a reasonable financial position for 2025/26, to date, with a positive

**surplus variance of (£56.2k)** from budget profile. However, some of the 'high risk' spend areas may yet occur (especially electricity expenditure) over the remainder of this financial year.

The main income streams have been posted in terms of **Drainage Rates** raised (not necessarily paid) at **(£32.8k)**, and **Special Levies received at (£877k)** for the full year from the 3 relevant councils. Ongoing action is taking place against unpaid drainage rate account holders.

**Grant income:** (£300k) to date had been received, this being additional to amounts received in previous years for FDGIA capital schemes at Immingham and Mawmbridge pumping stations; these schemes are ongoing. The IDB Fund money is being used to install a penstock at Rosper Road pits. The detail of these schemes is in the Capital Update report.

**Rechargeable Works** are being undertaken, mainly for the EA through the PSCA. Invoices had been raised with the EA up to the **end of November (£142k) for PSCA works undertaken by the Board on EA main rivers via Carnaby's**. Expenditure incurred to date to offset this was shown in the Rechargeable Works section of the report.

**Highland Water claims** were submitted to the EA for the balance of the 2024/25 actual costs incurred of (£22,572) and for the 2025/26 Estimated claim of (£130,000). The EA paid 80% of the estimated claim for 2025/26 (£104,000) along with the balance for 2024/25 actual costs incurred (£22,572), i.e., **a total of (£126,572)**. Correspondingly, the balance adjusted for actual 2025/26 costs incurred will be payable by the EA in September 2026.

Members were advised of the current position on the **Drainage Rates** collected for 2025/26, including previous years' arrears, as of 31st December 2025. The collection rate stands at **98.5%** (93.5% @P9 2024/25), so it is ahead of last year's collection rate at the same point. First reminders were despatched on 18th September 2025, and final reminders were despatched on 24th November 2025. A court date has been set for August 2026 at Grimsby Magistrates Court, which was the earliest date available. It will be more effective and efficient to chase the debtors ourselves in this instance. Most historical outstanding rating queries are now resolved and land issues raised in-year are now being actioned.

**Investments:** a replacement **£250k 1-year fixed term cash deposit** was made on 20th October 2025 with Furness Building Society at 4.1% (previously Chorley Building Society @4.5%). This was in combination with the other 3 Boards (although 4 separate investments of £250k each Board were made) to achieve this rate, with a combined investment of £1m. This will generate **(£10.2k) interest** for each of the Boards.

Due to the receipt of the additional grant income, further investments have been made. Overall, for the 4 Boards the investment income from fixed term deposits (so excluding Nationwide) is **achieving income of (£212k) for 2025/26**.

**Nationwide accounts:** due to operational difficulties with these accounts, notice was served to close them for all 4 Boards. The funds held in the Instant Access accounts were returned immediately and the notice period on the 95-day Notice Account expired on 24th November 2025. It was confirmed to Members that all 6 accounts were now

closed.

**CCLA:** the Boards agreed to set up some Public Sector Deposit Fund Money Market Funds with CCLA. These were opened on 28th August 2025 and are being utilised to ensure the Boards have enough liquidity to pay for the IDB Fund works. The interest rates and interest received to date are:

	Current Balance	CCLA Interest 2025/26		
NEL	£ 500,000.00	£ 6,265.92	Aug-25	4.11%
UW	£ 2,000,000.00	£ 14,627.53	Sep-25	4.03%
W1	£ 900,000.00	£ 8,811.15	Oct-25	4.01%
W3	£ 2,450,000.00	£ 16,318.41	Nov-25	3.98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 5,850,000.00</b>	<b>£ 46,023.01</b>	Dec-25	3.91%

**Electricity:**

Members were reminded of the significant increases in electricity rates from 01st October 2022 onwards.

In terms of 2025/26, due to the very dry summer period and mild autumn the electricity costs to date have been contained within the approved Budget. The following table sets out the monthly costs compared to the profiled budget (based on previous years' cost profile) and it was pointed out that there has been an increase in November, following an increase in rainfall.

**NELDB Electricity Costs 2025/26**

Month	Profiled Budget £	Budget Profile %	Actual £	Variance £	% Budget Utilised
Apr-25	£ 4,243	4.99%	£ 1,573	-£ 2,670	1.85%
May-25	£ 3,073	8.61%	£ 1,884	-£ 1,189	4.07%
Jun-25	£ 4,130	13.47%	£ 1,856	-£ 2,274	6.25%
Jul-25	£ 3,654	17.76%	£ 2,078	-£ 1,576	8.70%
Aug-25	£ 4,394	22.93%	£ 2,099	-£ 2,295	11.16%
Sep-25	£ 5,576	29.49%	£ 2,165	-£ 3,411	13.71%
Oct-25	£ 10,122	41.40%	£ 2,469	-£ 7,653	16.62%
Nov-25	£ 12,212	55.77%	£ 3,790	-£ 8,422	21.08%
Dec-25	£ 11,247	69.00%			
Jan-26	£ 10,165	80.96%			
Feb-26	£ 9,588	92.24%			
Mar-26	£ 6,596	100.00%			
<b>Profiled Budget</b>	<b>£ 47,404</b>		<b>£ 17,914</b>	<b>-£ 29,490</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>£ 85,000</b>		<b>£ 17,914</b>	<b>£ 67,086</b>	

*Profile based on historical spend*

The financial performance report for the first 9 months of 2025/26 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 was received and noted.

## 8. Capital Schemes update.

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

There has been no change to the indicative allocations for 2026/27, which remain as follows:

Project	Board	Funding Requested	Indicative Allocation	Local Choices Request
Timberland & Billingham PS Refurbishment	W1st	£3,905,721	£3,905,721	£3,905,721
Chapel Hill PS Refurbishment	W1st	£100,000	£0	£0
Burton Broxholme & Thorpe PS Refurbishments	UW	£1,349,938	£0	£0
Immingham PS Refurbishment	NEL	£2,000,000	£2,000,000	£900,000
Mawmbridge PS Refurbishment	NEL	£4,000,000	£0	£1,000,000

### **Mawmbridge PS Refurbishment (Ongoing):**

The outline design has been developed by Stantec, and cost estimations have been developed with input from specialist contractors to allow the economic analysis of the project. The OBC is being finalised for submission to the EA in January 2026.

The preferred option is to construct a new pumping station on the site of the current gravity discharge, combining the pump and gravity discharge to allow the pumps to be used to keep the channel clear of silt. The current total project cost, including 60% optimism bias is £6,663,480.

The OBC is being prepared under the current Defra rules, which would mean the project is fully funded by FDGIA. However, there is a risk that it may not be approved under the current rules. If this happened we would need to find a partnership funding contribution of 10% of the sum above £3m, so approximately £366,500. We have a contribution from the Department for Education of £100,000 therefore there we could apply this and argue a funding gap of £266,500. We would request this from Local Levy or use Board reserves.

### **Immingham PS Refurbishment (Ongoing):**

IDB No	ND 3987-2018-PRO
EA National Project No	ANC501E/000A/058A
GIA Claim No	IDB 0546
GIA Approval Amount	£175,000
Project Stage	OBC Review
Consultant	Stantec

### **Progress**

The project is progressing using the Department of Education funding allocated to it, and a FCERM 4 form has been submitted to release this funding. The OBC was submitted to the EA on 31 July 2025 and was submitted to NPAS for assurance review in November

2025, the comments from NPAs are currently being reviewed. It is anticipated this project will be approved in March 2026, hopefully under the existing funding regime.

<b>Immingham Pumping Station Refurbishment</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Income	(£375,000)	(£375,000)	£0
Expenditure	£375,000	£194,281	(£180,719)
Net	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£180,719)</b>	<b>(£180,719)</b>

### **Water Level Control Structures & Penstock Automation at various locations (W1, UW, NEL) AT2B-062:**

The Board was awarded money for the supply and installation of various control structures to be installed across all 4 Boards including a new penstock that has been installed at Rosper Road. (NEL)

Due to a projected underspend on this project, £400k has been offered back to the IDB Fund to utilise on other projects.

Access structures and platforms have gone in this week at three locations:

- Great Coates
- Barton
- Far Ings; Target Pond Outfall on the Humber Bank.

Members noted the update on Capital Schemes.

## **9. Operations Report.**

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

The works awarded to Joyce Engineering LTD are due to start early February to be finished by mid-March: these are to install a new staircase at Barton £6,220, Staircase at Great Coates £5,640, New handrails at Cleethorpes £3,190 and new handrails with ladder at East Halton Skitter £3,720.

### **Mobile pump:**

The pump is now at NEL Depot, and Darren Scott, Works Supervisor, has been requested to organise a training day with Carnaby's. This would include setting the pump up on a site and running it for a while. It is essential to be able to use the pump in short notice at an emergency event, therefore Operatives must be practiced and confident in setting it up.

### **Habrough Marsh**

Bushing works have been ongoing on Habrough Marsh, Members were presented with a series of slides and photographs detailing the works.

### **PSCA Works**

Members were reminded that the 25/26 Board's PSCA programme of works was not reduced by the EA, unlike within the other 3 IDBs in the group. The total of quoted works was £156,026.84.

Officers were still waiting for the list of works for NEL for 2026/27, so currently unaware of any changes to the estimates there.

John Finch requested a reduced maintenance schedule for the watercourses on his land, and this was noted.

Members discussed and NOTED the Operations report and update.

## **10. Corporate Risk Register**

A copy of the Corporate Risk Register and accompanying brief prepared by the Risk Manager had been circulated with the agenda and was presented by the Director of Finance.

The purpose of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) report is to provide the Boards and the Public with an update of the CRR for Witham and Humber Drainage Boards. The CRR provides a strategic oversight of the corporate risk management process and the key risks to which WHDBs are exposed.

The CRR is taken to each of the 4 Board Meetings to ensure that Board members are aware of the strategic risks which affect the four (4) statutory Boards within WHDB.

The CRR details those risks that are significant enough to warrant management and or oversight by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Providing detail of the risk control measures in place to reduce the likelihood and/or impact of a risk occurrence where this is felt to be practicable /appropriate.

WHDB continue to have a robust risk management process, which enables consideration of external and internal risks.

By establishing a systematic approach to identification, assessment and management of risk, WHDBs intend to continually improve the 4 Boards' governance, increase accountability and enhance overall performance. Once approved, the CRR will be published on the Board website.

Following discussion Members were content to:

- Approve the removal of Ref 10 Risk – Failure to collect income by the Board due to DRS (Rating System) being de-supported from 31, March 2025 due to the implementation of the new Rating System.
- Approve the amendments to the CRR to reflect the current risk position.
- Confirm the revised CRR reflects an accurate assessment of the current risks profile.
- Confirm the Risk Objectives are still relevant and reflect the key aspirations of the Board.

## **11. Pumping Station Capital Programme Refresh 2026 report.**

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

The Pumping Stations Capital Programme was last updated in January 2024. Since this time there had been 2 significant changes, which mean the Capital Programme needs to be reviewed during 2026:

- The FDGIA funding arrangements for Capital schemes funding have been reviewed nationally, Defra issued guidance on 14.10.25, with a new scheme being introduced from 2026/27 onwards.
- Spend on refurbishing and replacing some assets funded by the FDGIA Recovery Fund and the national £91m IDB Fund (the latter from which the 4 Boards secured £17.4m of funding for 33 schemes).

### Current Capital Schemes

The following are the current major capital schemes that are underway for each Board (i.e. excluding IDB Fund pump refurbishment works).

Board	Scheme	Cost £	Funding	Status
NEL	Immingham PS	£2.0m	FDGIA	Business Case submitted awaiting sign off by EA.
NEL	Mawmbridge PS	£4.0m	FDGIA	Business Case in development
UW	Saxilby PS	£1.7m	IDB Fund	Works underway new pump, MCC, etc.
UW	Decoy PS	£2.5m	IDB Fund	Works underway new pump, MCC, etc, at each site
UW	Fen Lane PS			
W1	North Kyme PS			
W1	Timberland & Billingham PS	£4.8m	FDGIA	Contracts awarded, new pumps at both sites, resilience measures at Timberland and Billingham.
W3	Woodhall PS	£2.7m	FDGIA	Works underway new pumps, MCC & discharge pipes.

### In summary the new funding rules are as follows:

#### Eligibility:

- All FCERM assets requiring refurbishment will be eligible for 100% of the refurbishment costs.
- For new assets (including new pumping stations) - eligible for 100% for the first £3 million, and 90% for costs above £3 million

#### Prioritisation by value for money:

- Benefits assessment
  - Flood damages avoided (residential, non-residential, agriculture)
  - Natural capital
  - Environmental benefits

#### Strategic Objectives:

- The overarching strategic objective of the FCERM programme is to ‘reduce risk from, and increase resilience to, flooding and coastal erosion and deliver environmental outcomes that are intrinsic to meeting this ambition’.
- Deprived communities, a minimum of 20% of FCERM investment will go to the quintile and a minimum of 40% to the 2 lowest quintiles combined, over both the next 3 and 10 years.
- Partnership Funding - non-Defra contributions will boost a project’s prioritisation.

Local Choice:

- The new approach will improve local choices

Removing Barriers:

- There will no longer be a need to demonstrate a project is moving properties from one risk band to a lower risk band.
- Properties constructed since 2012 will now be included in the benefit calculations.

The policy will be implemented from 01st April 2026, and the transition arrangements are as follows:

- projects of a value under £50 million, which have an approved OBC by 31 March 2026, will stay on the old funding rules otherwise schemes will move to the new rules.
- projects of a value greater than £50 million, which have an approved full business case by 31 March 2026, will stay on the old funding rules otherwise they will move to new rules.

The guidance documents to support the implementation of the new policy were expected to be published by the EA on 30 November 2025 but this is now deferred to January 2026, although guidance had not yet been received.

### **Implications for the Board**

- Any new schemes, including pumping station replacements will require a contribution of 10% of expenditure above £3m. This will need to be made either directly by the Board or by seeking alternative funding partners.
- Refurbishment schemes, whilst fully funded, may need a partnership funding contribution if they are to proceed as prioritisation will be based on GIA funding and benefits achieved. (Policy Objective no3).
- Resilience improvements, i.e. moving vulnerable electrical equipment above flood level may be treated as improvements and therefore not as a refurbishment and will need a contribution if above £3m.
- The Boards need to decide on how they will approach asset replacement, if refurbishment is not recommended by structural engineers. To establish the basic premise for cost estimation for refurbishment/replacement, three options were suggested. All options will need to be considered in the Outline Business Case (OBC). The cost estimations will be used for the development of the programme.

Option 1 (Current Programme)	Option 2 (Recommended)	Option 3
Lift & refurbish pumps *	New Less Damaging Pumps	New Less Damaging Pumps
New MCC	New MCC	New MCC
New /refurbish AWC	New /refurbish AWC	New /refurbish AWC
Minor Civils	Civil Repairs as required	New Civil Structure
	Resilience Measures	Resilience measures

\* Does not comply with eel regulations.

Whilst Option 2 is the Officer recommended approach mainly due to affordability and therefore providing the ability to deliver a larger programme, Option 3 is always the preferred option as it provides a full new pumping station. Option 2 uses the existing sub structure, and whilst these structures may still be suitable for the current programme development there will come a point in the future when these structures also need replacing or will require major works.

As part of the 4 Boards' Budget proposals, since 2023/24 each Board has been allocating an amount each year towards funding the Capital Programmes and this has been contributed to reserves to establish a source of funding to bridge any gaps/shortfalls in funding. Due to this new DEFRA funding model, it is likely that sums will be required sooner than anticipated under the previous FDGIA funding arrangements and therefore the Boards planned contributions may not be sufficient over the life of the programme.

### **Pumping Station/Scheme Prioritisation**

Following the heavy rainfall storm events in winter 2023/24, significant damage was caused to the 4 Boards' assets because of inundation of pumping stations from EA main rivers, excessive pumping, bank breaches, bank slips, and receiving excess water into IDB systems from main river.

Funding has been made available initially through FDGIA Flood Recovery Funding, and then over the last 2 years the £91m IDB Fund set up by DEFRA, from which the Boards secured £17.4m for 33 schemes.

Due to the works undertaken via this funding, lifting and refurbishing pumps and motors, replacing MCC's, installing new AWC's and in some cases installing new pumps, the current approved Capital Programme prioritisation order needs reviewing. Until the revised funding mechanism is fully understood and the new business case model is issued, it is only possible to group the Pumping Stations into high, medium and low priority. This is based solely upon the asset condition and no other factors like the importance for any locality, etc.

Officers had reviewed the previous programme and recommend the following prioritisation of stations for indicative approval. This will then provide guidance for officers to shape and develop a new Capital Programme to come back to the Boards for approval in November 2026.

Priority	High	Medium	Low
NEL	New Holland Outfall Little Buck Beck	New Holland Middle Drain	Immingham* Mawmbridge* Habrough Slide*
UW	Thorpe Ingleby Broxholme Burton Hykeham Oxpasture	Boultham Torksey Aubourn Sand Syke Pyewipe Coulson Road	Saxilby* Decoy* Fen Lane*
W1	Digby Branston Heighington Sandhill Beck Nocton	Chapel Hill Farroway Blankney Metheringham Ringmoor	Timberland* Billinghay* North Kyme*
W3	Greetwell Bardney Manor Farm Duckpool Marsh Lane Stainfield Fen Dogdyke	Coningsby Ings Kirkstead Bardney Abbey Bardney Fen Short Ferry Southrey	Horncastle Ings Stamp End Woodhall*

*\*Assumes current FDGIA schemes are approved/completed.*

## Next Steps & Timescales

The key information required is how the new FDGIA funding mechanism is going to work in practice and how this will impact on the business cases for any schemes the Boards wish to submit. Until this is known, and what funding may be available, a new funded Capital Programme cannot be submitted to the Boards for approval. Therefore, it is likely this will be developed over summer 2026 with hopefully a funded draft Programme being available for submission to the November Board meetings for approval.

Furthermore, once the funding criteria is known, the indicative scheme (programme of works) can be developed and costed for each location.

An update on progress will be submitted to the May 2026 meetings.

Following discussion Members were content to:

- note the changes to the funding arrangements for FDGIA from 01st April 2026.
- agree Option 2 as the new approach to scheme requirements for developing the new Capital Programme.
- agree the Pumping Station indicative prioritisation as set out
- note a further update report will be provided in May 2026, with a draft programme available for the Boards in November 2026.

Members discussed and NOTED the Capital Programme Report update.

## 12. Proposed 2026/27 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme 2026/27 onwards

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

Members were taken through the summary Estimates report, comparing 2025/26 approved budget to the 2026/27 proposed budget. The budget assumptions were as

stated in the JSC discussions on 08.12.25 [minute 5.2 refers]. A summary of the Joint Services Budget was also presented. Items highlighted to Members for consideration were as follows:

### Electricity:

One of the most significant increases experienced over the last couple of years is the electricity standing charges, and now KVA charges, which in cash terms have risen to nearly £200k by 01.10.23 from £15k on 01.10.20 (£293k including KVA charges as well) across the 4 Boards. These costs are incurred whether the pumps are running or not. Whilst the standing charges reduced slightly from 01st October 2024 (for the 12 months until 30th September 2025), they have increased again from 01st October 2025 by £13k. The KVA allowance charges have also increased over the last 2 years by £27k and £24k respectively, giving a net overall increase of £37k.

### Pensions:

The new Pension contribution rates have been received for the next 3 years from April 2026, following the triennial review of the LGPS. These have reduced for all 4 Boards from the previous rates. It was hoped to move to a consistent 'pooled' rate across the 4 Boards, but the differential to the individual rates is still too much. Therefore, the rates to be used over the next 3 years are as follows:

#### Employer Pension Contribution Rates

	NEL	UW	W1	W3	Pooled
<b>Current Rates (2025/26)</b>					
Primary %	25.1%	24.1%	30.1%	23.5%	
Secondary %	-4.4%		-10.8%		
Secondary £		£ 11,000	£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	
<b>2026/27</b>					
Primary %	22.1%	19.6%	21.9%	18.0%	18.8%
Secondary %	-12.1%		-8.4%		
Secondary £			£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	
<b>2027/28</b>					
Primary %	22.1%	19.6%	21.9%	18.0%	18.8%
Secondary %	-12.1%		-8.4%		
Secondary £			£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	
<b>2028/29</b>					
Primary %	22.1%	19.6%	21.9%	18.0%	18.8%
Secondary %	-12.1%		-8.4%		
Secondary £			£ -		
<b>Overall % of Pay</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	

Due to the significant reduction in NEL and W1 rates, it is proposed to budget for these at 16% rather than 10% and 13.5% respectively, as there is a risk the rates could increase again in 3 years' time at the next pension triennial valuation exercise. The Boards will pay the reduced rates indicated, but the full reduction will not be reflected in the reduced Budget to stabilise for future volatility.

Officers recommended a balanced budget position can be achieved for 2026/27 based

on the assumptions discussed, with a recommended **3.50% penny rate increase**.

Without this proposed **3.50% Penny Rate increase** the Board cannot set a balanced budget and endeavour to secure its financial stability. Additionally, there will be the land movements from agricultural land to 'other developed land' under the Land Drainage Act 1991, which impact on each individual Special Levy paying Council.

It was noted that a **1% change in the penny rate equates to £9,239 for 2026/27**.

#### **Funds and Reserves:**

The revised Financial Regulations approved at JSC in December 2024 agreed a policy of holding a general 'Revenue Reserve' for emergencies of 15% to 20% of turnover [previously 10-15%], and that the balance be held in 'earmarked reserves' for specific requirements. The 2026/27 balance is estimated to be 19.84% of estimated turnover, so it is within the Board's updated approved Policy on Reserves of holding 15% to 20% of turnover. The actual position for 2025/26 as at 31st March 2026 will be part of the Outturn report, to be reported to the Board in May 2026.

#### **Emergency Event:**

This reserve can be used for funding emergency expenditure incurred if a flooding event takes place, additional electricity usage is incurred at the pumping stations or for preventative/remedial action to help deal with emergency events. There is now an annual contribution of £37.5k to this reserve.

#### **Self-Insurance:**

This fund was established due to the increasing cost of insurance and the reduction in cover especially at Pumping Stations with regards flooding. It is likely the Board will have less insurance cover for certain locations in future and will therefore have to self-insure more for losses.

#### **Pumping Stations/AWC's:**

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

#### **Conservation:**

Reserve to facilitate conservation initiatives within the Board's district.

#### **Rosper Road Pits:**

Balance of the contributions received for the Rosper Road Pits project to be utilised in developing and maintaining this scheme.

#### **One Off Projects:**

This reserve holds the balance of any FDGIA monies received and not yet fully utilised (e.g., Immingham and Mawmbridge Pumping Station refurbishments, etc). It is assumed all grant income will be utilised in 2025/26 but if not, any balances will be held in this Reserve until required.

#### **Developer Contributions:**

Balance of the contributions received for various development contributions which will meet future maintenance and improvement costs as required.

### **Pumping Station Refurbishments (Capital):**

Annual contributions are made to this reserve to fund the Pumping Station Refurbishment Capital Programme. These contributions will be held in this reserve until required.

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

Following discussion Members were content to:

- **APPROVE** the financially balanced Estimates for 2026/27, based upon a **3.50% increase in the penny rate**.
- **NOTE** the outcome of this report will determine the level of penny rate, drainage rates and Special Levies to be set for 2026/27.

### **13. Annual Value, Drainage Rates and Special Levies 2026/27.**

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

#### **Annual Values**

The Annual Values must be formally approved by the Board. These start with those brought forward from last year's rate setting as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, with then the movements during the calendar year 01.01.25 to 31.12.25 required for land that has been developed or is no longer used for agricultural purposes are included. This land transfers out of Drainage Rates and is allocated to the Special Levy for the appropriate Council.

The Annual Values as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 were:

	<b>Total £</b>
Drainage Rates	582,510
North Lincolnshire Council	4,046,051
North East Lincolnshire Council	11,202,355
West Lindsey DC	84,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,915,691</b>

The land movements between 01.01.25 and 31.12.25 that require transfer from Drainage Rates to Special Levy, were detailed in an appendix J2, and are in summary:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Area ha</b>	<b>Annual Value</b>
Drainage Rates	-74.22	-£7,342
North Lincolnshire Council	61.43	£214,119
North East Lincolnshire Council	12.79	£44,590
West Lindsey DC	0.00	£0
<b>Total (Net)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>£251,367</b>

The land is removed from Drainage Rates at the known Annual Value and transferred to Special Levy at the 'Developed Land' rate, as calculated on 1993 values, of £3,485.74 per hectare. The developed land rate calculated on the 1993 values is as follows:

	Acres	Hectares	Annual Value	Rate per Hectare
Agricultural	18,930	7,661	671,801	£87.69
<b>Developed</b>	<b>8,881</b>	<b>3,594</b>	<b>12,527,747</b>	<b>£3,485.74</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,811</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>13,199,548</b>	

The changes set out results in the following Annual Values as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025:

	Total £
Drainage Rates	575,168
North Lincolnshire Council	4,260,170
North East Lincolnshire Council	11,246,945
West Lindsey DC	84,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,167,058</b>

#### **Penny Rate:**

The Penny Rate drives Drainage Rates and Special Levies. The following penny rates in the pound for 2026/27 will be applicable given the Board's approved 3.50% increase:

	Penny Rate (pence)
Current	5.7166
Proposed	5.9167

This will increase, net of land movements, the Board's income generated from Drainage Rates from £33,300 in 2025/26 to £34,031 (+£731) in 2026/27.

#### **Special Levies:**

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

	Current £	Proposed £	Difference £	Increase %
<b>NLC</b>	231,296.55	252,061.48	20,764.93	8.98
<b>NELC</b>	640,393.83	665,447.99	25,054.16	3.91
<b>WLDC</b>	4,846.25	5,015.88	169.63	3.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>876,536.63</b>	<b>922,525.35</b>	<b>45,988.72</b>	<b>5.25</b>

In summary, income to the Board increases by a total of £46,720 (being an increase of £45,989 in Special Levy and a net increase in Drainage Rates of £731 due to transfer of agricultural land to other developed land).

Following discussion Members AGREED:

- The transfer of land from Drainage Rates to Special Levy as set out be approved.
- The land valuations as at 31st December 2025, upon which Drainage Rates and Special Levies are calculated, is set at £16,167,058.
- The 'penny rate' is increased by 3.50% to 5.9167 pence for all areas of the Board's Drainage District.
- The Special Levies 2026/27 be agreed and set for each of the 3 Councils as:

North Lincolnshire Council	£ 252,061.48
North East Lincolnshire Council	£ 665,447.99
West Lindsey District Council	£ 5,015.88

- The Chairman and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the 'Rate Book', apply the seal of this Board and publicise the revised Penny Rate, estimated Drainage Rates and Special Levies before 15.02.26.

#### **14. Engineering Services Report.**

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

##### **Class License Renewal:**

The Board's officers have renewed both the CL24 and CL27 licences, which permit works to proceed under mitigation measures at sites where water voles (CL24) and badgers (CL27) are present. These licences allow the Board to displace water voles when carrying out works on flood defences, watercourses, or drainage systems, and to interfere with badger setts for watercourse and drainage-related purposes.

The CL51 beaver class licence for modifying or removing dams, burrows, and lodges will be renewed at the end of March.

##### **Eel Exemption Notices:**

The EA has decided to change the way the Board's eel exemptions are processed. In a positive development, the Agency has granted the Board exemptions that will remain valid until the pumping stations are due to be upgraded. This represents a significant shift away from the annual or bi-annual renewal model previously used.

As North East Lindsey DB has no 'high priority' stations meaning exemptions are not currently required.

##### **ADA Environment Day (February 4th, 2026):**

ADA will be hosting its annual Environment Day on Wednesday, 4 February 2026, at Park Farm, Thorney (near Peterborough). This free, in-person event will feature a programme of talks on key issues affecting lowland watercourse and freshwater management, including eels, invasive species, beavers and landscape recovery. Members can register via the ADA website or contact the Board's Environmental Officer at [nick.downing@witham3idb.gov.uk](mailto:nick.downing@witham3idb.gov.uk)

**Killingholme Marshes Pumping Station (ND-3267-2017-PRO):**

This pumping station has been commissioned by the land owner in accordance with the Development Consent Order and is now operational. The site was visited on 21st August to view the pumping station and to discuss access arrangements to the drainage system. Work to reinstate the tidal defence is complete. Able UK will decommission the existing gravity discharge, after which all gravity flows will pass through the new station as designed. This item is now closed and requires no further reporting.

The following **Consent applications** were highlighted to Members:

ND-7203-2025-CON	Middle Drain Branch 5 (6E), Development site, A1173 - Kiln Lane, Stallingborough.	GGP Consult	2 surface water outfalls into new Proposed Swale Line 1	18/11/2025
ND-7205-2025-CON	Middle Drain Branch 5 (6E), Development site, A1173 - Kiln Lane, Stallingborough.	GGP Consult	Proposed Temporary Connection from proposed swale to ditch line 1	18/11/2025

**Stallingborough 3 Sea Defence Improvements - NE Lindsey IDB liaison (ND-5362-2020-ASS):**

This project will see the placing of lump stone, and other defence repairs, along a 4.5km reach of the Humber Estuary tidal defences. The construction period on this site has opened again allowing the commencement of construction activity on the site. The Board has worked with the EA to ensure access to the pumping stations at Mawmbridge and Middle Drain remain accessible at all times.

The Board has also worked with the Agency and their contractor to promote the desilting of the 2 gravity outfalls that most effect the Board's system along this reach, at Mawmbridge PS and Oldfleet Drain. The Board's contractor Carnaby's has also undertaken the de-siting of the Oldfleet Drain on behalf of the EA.

Works programmed for this 3rd year of the project are substantially complete. The design for the overspill structure that will convey excess flows from the Oldfleet Drain in to the Middle Drain PS system is complete and consent has been issued by the Board.

The construction of the access track to the Oldfleet Drain outfall is underway. This access will allow the regular de-silting of the outfall and maximise the use and benefit of the gravity outfall. It is envisaged that in the early years the overspill structure shall not be required too often, overtime it will see more use and the effectiveness of the gravity outfall is reduced by increasing tide levels.

**Barton to New Holland Sea Defence Improvements - NE Lindsey IDB liaison (ND-5613-2021-GEN):**

The EA is advancing the development of the scheme to improve the tidal defences and outfalls along the frontage from Barton to New Holland. The project considers the next 25-30 years, options will be considered against the assessed benefits for the areas behind the Humber Banks.

Regular consultation meetings are held with the local community due to the sensitivity of the area in which this work will take place.

**Humber 2100+ - Step 1 Endorsement Report:**

The multi-agency project considering the flood risk within the Humber Estuary has received the endorsement of all the professional partners to Step 1 of the overall strategy. This initial step is seeking to gain acceptance of various fundamental issues relating to flood risk in the catchment, building acceptance of the magnitude and consequence of the risk and how we communicate it to those it affects.

All professional partners have been issued with a copy of this report to use in briefing their Councillors and others to help them understand the outputs and secure endorsement. Further information can be requested via:

Hstrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk

Members received and NOTED the Engineering report and update.

**15. Request for the Board to Schedule for Maintenance a Riparian Watercourse: East Elevation of Myenergi Property.**

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

The Board has received a request from the representatives of the riparian owners for the Board to place a riparian watercourse on to its list of Maintained Watercourses.

The watercourse in question is an extension of the Middle Drain Branch No.5 that was adopted by the Board in November 2024. The watercourse serves an industrial area to the south of A1173 and is part of the system that serves an area of development known as Pioneer Park, Immingham. The area upstream of the watercourse receives water from an area to the North via a culvert under the A1173 within the catchment of the district. It does not convey any 'highland water'. The system's discharge is through the Board maintained Middle Drain Pumping Station or EA maintained gravity discharge in to the Humber.

The watercourse serves an area that is already developed for industrial purposes, is designated for development in the future and is therefore subject to special levy or is subject to agricultural rates. The Board worked with North East Lincolnshire Council during the consideration of planning applications relating to land to the south that resulted in the Board placing the downstream watercourse on to its schedule of maintained watercourses in November 2024. During this process it became evident that, given the catchment served, there would be obvious benefit to accept this reach of watercourse too.

Working with the riparian owners, the Board's officers have agreed a clear access route for maintenance of the open watercourses serving the area, including the riparian watercourse subject to this request.

This short reach of watercourse [approximately 95m in length marked A-B on the map provided] was identified as being fundamentally important to the surface water system in

the area. The Board's officers sought the adoption of this watercourse to help reduce the risk of flooding to industrial properties in the area.

The Board would adopt the open watercourse only and will not accept responsibility for any existing or proposed structures on, in or over the watercourse.

To maintain a continuous access route, the Board's officers have negotiated clear 7m wide [minimum] access route on the east side of the watercourse. Despite the Board's comments during the planning process, continuous access on the west side of the watercourse was lost.

The riparian owner on the east side has allowed the clearance of a 7m wide access strip that provides clear unobstructed access for the Board's maintenance plant and operation of the watercourse. By placing this reach of watercourse on to its Maintenance Schedule, the Board's Byelaws will apply. This will make secure the access required for all future maintenance of this watercourse.

The Board has a policy of adopting watercourses where it is, or has the potential to be, a primary drainage route and there is obvious benefit to those occupiers of land within the catchment. The catchment it serves is already developed and is to be developed further in the future and so control over access to the watercourse and its maintenance provides discernible benefits to all rate and levy payers within the catchment. The proposed additional reach is a continuation of the Board's existing system and will provide benefit to multiple occupiers of land.

There were 2 options to be considered by the Board:

1. To not schedule the watercourse. The maintenance of the watercourse would remain the responsibility of the adjacent riparian land owner[s]. Should the riparian owner not be able or willing to undertake appropriate maintenance then industrial properties will be at increased risk of flooding.
2. Adopt the watercourse length and Schedule the reach of watercourse for maintenance as requested, the Board placing it on its Schedule of Maintained Watercourses.

Following discussion Members:

- APPROVED the request, subject to the watercourse being placed in an acceptable condition [work completed December 2025], to adopt the additional reach of 95m of open watercourse flowing into the Middle Drain Branch No.5.
- Noted that as a result, the maintenance of the watercourse would be included within the Board's annual vegetation maintenance programme from July 2026.

## **16. Any Other Business.**

### **16.1 Land off King's Road, Immingham.**

The issue of the land off King's Road was raised and whether there was any update about the Board's land, the former site of a motorcycle track. It was confirmed that as per the Board's decision at a previous meeting not to declare the land as surplus to requirements and therefore proceed to sale, the matter had been set aside for now. This was following the receipt of an extremely low offer to the Board for purchase of the land. There had been no further offers.

16.2 Annual Inspection, Thursday 16th July 2026.

It was noted that the joint W&HDB Inspection would focus on North East Lindsey's drainage district this year. Members were asked to confirm their attendance with Jayne Flower on Jayney.Flower@witham3idb.gov.uk

Robert Kirk requested would it be possible to visit Able UK and also Little Buck Beck pumping Station. It was agreed that these locations would be included in a draft itinerary and the possible route would be finalised at the May meeting.

The Vice Chairman encouraged all members to attend, previous inspections had been extremely interesting and beneficial.

There were no further items of business, and the meeting closed at 16.15.

17. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 2pm in Stallingborough Grange Hotel.

 Chairman..... 20.5.26 ..... Date

NELDB BM 28.01.26.