

1. Governance

1.1 Apologies for Absence

1.2 Declaration of Interest

Board Members are advised to declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest on any item in the Agenda.

1.3 Minutes of the Meeting held 25 January 2022

Present

Mr Michael Dougherty	MD
Mr John Barker (Vice Chairman)	JB
Mr Douglas McTaggart	DMT
Mr Martin Belton (Newly Appointed Chairman)	MB
Mr John Oldridge	JO

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting, Clerk, Engineer and Environmental Adviser:

Mr Craig Benson	CB
Mr Paul Jones	PJ
Mr Mark Joynes	MJ

Election of Chairman

2022.1 After a short discussions **JB nominated MB to be elected as Chairman. JO seconded and all members were in favour.** Mr Martin Belton (MB) was duly elected and confirmed as Chairman of the Board. The new Chairman thanked the outgoing Chairman for all his work and stated his intention to continue his good work. CB also expressed his gratitude to the former chairman and said he was pleased he had chosen to remain as a Board Member given his knowledge and long history. MD said he was happy to continue some of his existing roles inspecting the pumping station, etc.

Apologies for Absence

2022.2 An apology was received from Cllr Liz Sargeantson.

Declaration of Interest

2022.3 There were none. JB asked when members should declare an interest given they were all held land in the district. CB said they should make a declaration if any specific item arose that affected them directly.

Minutes of the Meeting held 15 June 2021

2022.4 Minutes of the last meeting were circulated with the meeting papers. The minutes were taken as read. **DMT proposed and JB seconded the Minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman,** all in agreement.

Matters Arising

2022.5 Associated British Ports: DMT discussed the leakages and said he had looked into the relevant byelaws. PJ said it was to be raised in the Engineers report later in the meeting.

Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

2022.6 There were none.

CEO's Report

The Clerk's report was read and approved.

Matters Arising

2022.7 Byelaws: CB explained the changes in legislation that affected the Board and requested the Board approve the draft Byelaws circulated with the meeting papers. **JB proposed and JO seconded.** DMT enquired about watercourses and drain works, in particular water coming from Crowle Moors. CB said he understood his concerns if the flow was excessive. PJ said they bylaws were robust as they were, and that Natural England were carrying out a study on the matter and that byelaws could be enforced if no action was taken. DMT also asked about frequency of culvert inspections. PJ said that it was ultimately up to the Board on frequency as they are riparian and currently visually inspected by contractors each year to highlight major issues. The Board use its permissive powers to serve notice on landowners to repair culverts, etc. DMT said it was best not to enforce too much at once. PJ said the last formal inspection was around 2009 and the culverts were replaced by riparian owners more recently.

DMT also discussed badgers digging in the dykes. PJ said it was the landowner's responsibility and the Land Drainage Act does not place a duty on the Board to repair any damage. CB said badger licences would be required before repairs could be carried out.

2022.8 Red Diesel: CB said the wording of the existing guidance remained ambiguous: 'Exempt if solely for benefit of agricultural'. He said the Board would be covered if the clause was updated. He also said small contractors cannot be expected to run multiple machines in such a rural district and the Board are in danger of being left without a contractor.

2022.9 Draft Flood Risk Management Plan: CB informed Members that a response had been submitted on behalf of the Shire Group of IDBs. The Draft River Basin Plans consultation would end in March. JB asked if there is a plan for the whole of the area. CB said the whole Humber River Basin was covered. JB asked when something specific to the Goole Fields district would be produced. CB said the ultimate plan was to protect large, populated areas. He said this was consistent with the Humber Strategy, along with maintaining and repairing existing defences. JB asked how long it may take for the Board's area to be specifically considered. CB said he expected it to be included when the whole Humber estuary was considered. DMT asked if there would be a public consultation. CB said there would be, and this was expected sometime in 2023.

Finance Report

The Financial report, copies of which had been circulated with the meeting papers, was considered and adopted by Members.

Matters Arising

2022.10 Rating: The finance officer reported all rates & the special levies for the year ending 31 March 2022 had been received, with the exception of a single account that was partly paid, amounting to £276.51, and that he expected this would be settled before the year-end.

2022.11 Internal Audit: Members noted the minutes of the Audit Review Panel that took place on 22 November 2021.

2022.12 External Audit: Members noted that audit for the year ended 31 March 2021 was complete with no matters arising.

2022.13 Risk Register: Members reviewed the draft Risk Register prepared on behalf of the Board. MJ said it was largely unchanged from the previous year. The changes related to the Board being exposed to higher costs with regard to red diesel. Some other operational risks relating to operational difficulties under Covid-19 restrictions had been downgraded as staff and operatives alike had become familiar with working under the restrictions. **DMT proposed the Board approve the Register, MO seconded, and all agreed.**

2022.14 Estimates for the Year Ending 31 March 2023: MJ gave members a brief explanation of the estimates for the coming year and invited members to discuss options, including the officers' recommendation of a 0.5p increase in the penny rate in the pound. MJ also reminded members every 1p increased in the rate yielded around £1,400 of additional income for the Board. MD said a 0.5p increase would yield only around £700. JB said he expected red diesel costs to increase. MJ said he been in discussions with the Board's energy procurement officers and that they were uncharacteristically concerned about likely increase in costs. He also reported the Board were locked into favourable terms until the end of September 2022 but expected costs to increase significantly after then. MB said all costs would increase, not just energy costs. MJ said although unit costs were sure to increase, the actual cost would depend on pumping activity, which ultimately depended on rainfall. MJ said there no other sources of income available to offset any increase in costs. MD said even if additional pumps were brought in, diesel would be more expensive so costs would ultimately increase in any case. **JB proposed a 1p increased and JO seconded.**

2022.15 Five Year Budget Estimate: The Board reviewed the five-year budget estimates and the levels of income & expenditure over that period.

2022.16 Schedule of Payments: The Board approved for signature by the Chairman a schedule of payments made since the last meeting totalling £19,230.36, of which £6,216.11 were paid by direct debit or approved by the Officers only. **DMT proposed the Board approve the schedule and MB seconded.**

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report was read and approved.

Matters Arising

2022.17 Drainage District Modelling: PJ said he had received a separate draft report which had since been finalised. He said the report would be circulated to members after the meeting. The item circulated with the papers for the presented a summary. Only one of the options showed any sign of improving the flood risk picture, in terms of a 1-in-10-year event and its impact on Cross Drain Pumping Station & Shipcote Gravity Outfall. He said that of particular interest was any new pump capacity on Shipcote Drain (owing to the restrictions of going in to Warping Drain) would have limited influence on low lying land 4km inland and only reducing water levels within 1km of the pump location.

PJ said the land would need raising by 1.5m or Shipcote Drain would need deepening by a similar amount; the low-lying land level (4km inland) being about 0.4m AOD, and pump start levels about 0.2m. Even if the land were raised in the lowest parts, surrounding land is affected. *All* low spots should be raised. More critically it is estimated it would cost approximately £5m to raise all the land. Of all options, even a small increase in pump capacity would have an effect 4-9% benefit on flood risk. The best options would be a temporary pump at Cross Drain, benefitting 17% of the overall area but there would still be a significantly flooded area suffering in a 1-in-10-year event. DMT asked if there was any evidence of improved flood defences on smaller field drains. PJ said they had not been tested but could be. MB asked about taking into account Crowle Moors. Whenever they visited the bottom of the site there is little rain. Trying to cope with others water in addition to the Board's own is the issue. DMT said the present dry spell means the

system ought to be empty, but it is not. MB suggested this could work in the Board's favour. DMT said very little rain had fallen at all in the previous week. PJ said any connection to the moors was now being monitored by Natural England. After several weeks of rain, any rainfall onto an impermeable surface such as ponded water would result in immediate run-off. DMT asked if Shipcote always has water, could we keep it lower by pumping more? MB said the Board's own pumps have been known to run dry. A discussion followed on the merits of deepening drains and PJ said it was ultimately with ABP to resolve the Shipcote outfall to prevent ingress from the Ouse. JB asked if we are pumping their water. PJ said investigations were underway by Natural England to establish a link. MB said when Fisons had it, they pumped all of the time with no problems.

2022.18 Shipcote Outfall: PJ said the gravity outfall is still the best means of evacuating water and ABP have provided updates. MD said an officer had been in contact regarding the outlet sluice and there were plans to replace the outlet in the long term. PJ said inlet and outlet both were outside the District and the Board have no power of access, strictly speaking, and ABP have confirmed responsibility for the outlet but the chamber was still to be formally determined MD said, as far as he was aware, APB owned the chamber and it was not the Board's responsibility. He also said the old wooden door was warped and rotten. He continued that, in the past, ABP wouldn't carry out the repairs, so the IDB did the works themselves and it is now largely impossible to keep it watertight. PJ said the Board should continue to work with ABP to confirm responsibility for the whole structure. He also said the Environment Agency believe it to be an ABP asset, reiterated that the Board have no powers outside the district and the land was unregistered. MD asked who owns the tunnel under the road. PJ said it would likely be the responsibility of the highways department of East Riding Council. He said the Board could use its powers to maintain/desilt the culvert if the Board agreed or enforce., DMT asked if byelaws come into effect because of the historic use. PJ said notice could be served against a person or party to remove an obstruction but if a notice is ignored the Board would need to consider appointing a contractor to clear any obstruction, then recover monies from the responsible party, via the courts if necessary. DMT asked who could enter the structure from a health & safety viewpoint. PJ said as a confined space only trained persons should enter. He also commented a good run-out would be useful. DMT said even a small amount of silt affects the Board. At low tide it can block our systems up. ABP would be approached to confirm dates for outfall repair work and chamber responsibility. Desilting under the road would be most beneficial after ABP have repaired the outfall.

2022.19 Natural England: PJ said they were looking to complete inspections by the autumn of 2022 and details would be passed to members.

2022.20 Ordinary Watercourse Maintenance: PJ explained a ratepayer requested the matter be reported to the Board. A number of culverts were damaged by the Board's contractor and reported to the chair and contractors immediately. MD confirmed a compromise had been reached regarding the bridge. DMT presented pictures on another matter where watercourse arisings had gone into the field sporadically. He distributed some pictures for members to consider and asked what the Board sees as resolution. MD said they had trouble with staff sickness and mechanical breakdowns, and they were late to commence work. The Board discussed contractors but resolved they were not seeking a change of contractors.

2022.21 Buffer Margins: MD drew the Board's attention to the trouble with some riparian owners' buffer margins, saying that some margins vary between 6-8m so is difficult to maintain / reach. MD said he had taken the contractor to the foot of the damaged bridge and the operative confirmed it would be put right. MB suggested the contractor should be more careful in future. DMT asked if we need to inform him of the landowner's intentions. MB said he doesn't know what he's going to do. PJ suggested we could remove spoil and deposit arisings and that usually contractors work with landowners to agree a method of placement. MB said it was so late everyone was drilled up by the time he arrived. DMT

asked if his landowner needs address the situation himself. PJ said in these situations, it's best to see if it can be rectified on site. MB said it is difficult to scrape off and leave crops undamaged. PJ said any potential claim for injury may be considered and assessed by the Board if reasonable. PJ said he did not consider the sporadic placement of material into the field reasonable. A discussion followed. DMT asked if the Board should provide a detailed schedule or if the contractor should program the works himself. MD said he had told the contractor to do Shipcote. PJ asked if the Chairman wanted to talk to the operatives. MB was agreeable to do so. Members discussed various options.

Environmental Report

The Environmental Report circulated with the Meeting Papers was read and approved.

Health & Safety Report

The report which was circulated to members was read and noted by members.

Any Other Business

2022.22 Clerks' Working Arrangements: CB said the officers were still largely working from home, with an officer attending the actual office at least one day per week. JB asked if this arrangement would continue. CB said a kind of hybrid arrangement would be most likely be reached. He also commented all companies would be reviewing their office requirements. He also mentioned some clients preferred virtual meetings and some to meet in person.

2022.23 Humber Low Carbon Pipelines Project: JB asked if anyone knew about the proposed CO₂ pipeline, and its proximity to the gas supply line. MJ said the Board had been consulted but no response had yet been submitted. MB said Reedness & Swinefleet Drainage Board were looking to install a pump on Warping Drain, and could the Board consider contributing. DMT asked if we could place a pump at the old gravity outfall into Warping Drain. PJ said it was worth considering cooperating with the landowners' support to raise the District improvement with developers.

Date of next meeting

2022.24 The meeting was closed at approximately 3:30pm. The next main meeting will take place on Tuesday, 14 June 2023, 2:00pm, with the venue likely to be Swinefleet Village Hall once again.

1.4 Matters Arising not discussed elsewhere