



# 1. Governance

**Recommendation:**

- Note the information contained in this report

## 1.1 Apologies for Absence

## 1.2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, Part 2 Members Interests, Members must remove themselves from the discussion or determination of matters in which they have a financial interest.

In matters where Members have a non-financial interest, they should not participate in the discussion or determination of a matter where the interest might suggest a danger of bias.

## 1.3 Minutes of the Meeting held 6 February 2023

MEMBER	01.02. 2021	07.06. 2021	08.11. 2021	07.02. 2022	13.06. 2022	7.11. 2022	6.2. 2023
Margaret Armiger MA	A	√	√	√	-	√	√
David Barratt DB	-	-	√	A	√	√	A
Adrian Black AB	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Chris Black CB	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
John Coggan JC	A	A	√	-	A	A	-
Tony Ellerby TE	√	A	√	√	√	√	√
Ian Fleetwood IF	New	A	√	√	√	√	√
David Forington DF	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Trevor Foster TF	A	√	√	A	√	A	√
Samuel Godfrey SG	√	√	√	-	√	√	√
Benjamin Jackson BJ	√	√	√	√	√	√	A
Johnathan Jackson JJ	√	√	√	√	A	√	√
Robert Kissaglis RK	-	-	New√	√	√	√	√
Paul Metheringham PM	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Lesley Rollings LR	√	√	√	-	√	-	√
Ralph Ogg - Vice Chair	√	√	√	√	√	A	A
Neil Poole - Chair	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Helen Rowson HR	√	√	√	√	√	√	A
Gwylim G Williams GW	√	A	√	-	√	-	A
Janet Longcake JL	New√	√	√	√	-	√	√



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

Craig Benson (Clerk)	Clerk
David Blake (Finance Officer)	FO
Paul Jones (Engineer)	Eng
Janette Parker (Rating Officer)	RTO

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr. D. Barratt, Mr. B. Jackson, Mr. R. Ogg, Mrs H. Rowson and Mr. G. Williams.

**2023.1** Clerk advised Members that Mr. Alan Revill, a well-respected previous member of the Board, past Chairman of the Gainsborough Board and who assisted in the formation of the Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB, had recently passed away. A minute silence was held in remembrance.

**Declarations of Interest**

**2023.2** None.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

**2023.3** Chair proposed approval of as true record and all Members in favour.

**Matters Arising**

**2023.4** None.

**Complaints/FOI Requests**

**2023.5** None.

**Clerks Report**

**2023.6** Policy Statement – Clerk advised this had been updated, he took Members through the changes and **All agreed approval**.

**2023.7** Environment Agency – Information noted.

**2023.8** North Lincolnshire Council – Information noted.

**2023.9** Clerk then read to Members a letter received from Scotter Parish Council who formally requested the Board's support and expertise in working with the EA regarding their concerns surrounding the lack of maintenance to the downstream section of the River Eau. Discussions took place with the Chair confirming that the Parish Council had funds available so there would be no financial implication for the Board and **All Members agreed approval**. Clerk confirmed he would respond to the letter and arrange a meeting to progress.

**Financial Report**

**2023.10** Rating Report – FO advised that 96% of the rates had been collected to date with the balance now at £5,865 with £3,100 relating to instalment payments.

**2023.11** Rate Removal – Approval agreed by all Members.

**2023.12** Risk Register – FO took members through the changes. **Approval agreed by all.**

**2023.13** Rates & Special Levies for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 – FO handed out additional supplements to members, took them through and advised of the current situation regarding electricity costs. He concluded that a 1p increase to the rate was recommended. JJ thanked him for the information provided, stating that it was a very good picture of where the Board stood and was simple to follow. He stated that electricity costs seemed to be larger during the last quarter of the year so queried whether a 1p increase was necessary. He then asked if a reserve level of 40% was necessary as it seemed high when considering it was public money and queried if the council members



present had any thoughts on this. Chair advised that Town and Parish Councils based reserves on half of turnover as a rule but some kept more whilst others kept less. Chair then asked in what circumstances reserves would be utilised. FO confirmed to cover the increased electricity costs with Clerk adding they would be used if pump failures were experienced. Clerk then advised it was not sustainable to continue taking money from reserves as there would come a point when the Board would have no funds. He added that whilst electricity costs may fall, at this moment in time that could not be guaranteed but, whatever the Board decided the Officers would manage the budget on that basis. CB advised he had attended an ADA conference recently where the issue had arisen and one Drainage Board had advised that if they had a wet winter then increased electricity costs would cause them to go bust. He added that this Board had good reserves and was well managed but that there was shortly to be a large expense for Ravensfleet. DF queried when the Board had last had a rate increase. Clerk confirmed in 2011 when the Board was formed. AB proposed a 1p increase this year stating the Board could not get into the situation where they were unable to run pump stations as they had run out of money. Further discussions took place with Chair confirming recommendation that rate be increased by 1p to 9.75p for the next year and would then be reviewed. **All Members voted in favour of.**

In accordance with Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act, the Board determined that aggregate annual value of chargeable properties in the district on the aggregate value of all other land in the district as at 31st December 2022 for the financial year beginning 1st April 2023 as follows: -

- a) Aggregate annual value of chargeable properties      £ 3,573,566
- b) Aggregate value of all other land                              £ 1,581,678

It was agreed that for the purpose of defraying costs, charges and expenses etc. incurred by the Board under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, and in pursuance of the Internal Drainage Board (Finance) Regulations 1992, that the Board make a drainage rate for their district in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings and a Special Levy as follows: -

The amount of the Board's expenses to be met by drainage rates was £154,213 by way of an Occupier's rate of 9.75p in the £ on the basis of the annual value of agricultural land and agricultural buildings in the district.

The amount of the Board's expenses to be met by Special Levies was: -

- North Lincolnshire Council                                      £ 284,355
- West Lindsey District Council                                    £ 64,067

The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to seal the rate and the Special Levy on the Local Authority in accordance with the Act and the Finance Regulations.

The Clerk, or their representatives, were authorised to negotiate and carry out proceedings for the recovery of any rates unpaid.

Members agreed that if additional expenditure is required above the agreed budget, it is taken from balances.

**2023.14** SG asked what measures were being taken in regards of costs savings and soft start measures. FO confirmed the Board's MEICA Engineer had already looked at installing Invertor drives to some of the stations and handed a copy of the proposals to members. **Discussions ensued with All Members in favour of implementation.**

Chair thanked FO for all the information provided, adding that it had made it easier for Members to make decisions. FO then advised that the MEICA Engineer had moved, where possible, pump stations onto night time pumping to reduce as much day time pumping as possible and thereby reduce costs.



**2023.15** Hire Vehicle Purchase – JJ declared an interest as he was a member of Ancholme IDB. Discussions took place with All Members in agreement that the vehicles should be purchased.

**2023.16** Schedule of Payments – All Members agreed approval.

#### Engineer's Report

**2023.17** Telemetry – Information noted.

**2023.18** Ravensfleet Pumping Station – Eng. confirmed that tenders were due for return on 24<sup>th</sup> February and that four Board Members were required to form the Evaluation Panel with the Engineer and Clerk as agreed with the Procurement Agent. It was agreed that PM, DF, the Chair and Vice Chair would be on the panel.

**2023.19** Burringham Catchment Model – Eng. advised that North Lincolnshire Council Procurement Team had undertaken the procurement process and that this had now been completed. He added that a number of parties had shown interest but that only one tender had actually been received. North Lincolnshire Council had approached all interested parties to query no other tenders being received and responses indicated it was purely down to resource issues. Eng. stated that the tender period had been extended in order to allow additional time for bids to be submitted. He added that the one tender that had been submitted was compliant and met all the criteria with no concerns noted and so the recommendation from North Lincolnshire Council was to award the tender to JBA Consulting at a cost of £46,879.53. Eng. then reminded Members that the Board had received £50,000 Grant In Aid towards this project. **Discussions ensued whereupon All Members agreed approval.**

**2023.20** Water Level Management – Information noted.

#### Environmental Report

**2023.21** Information noted.

#### Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report

**2023.22** Information noted.

#### Representation


**2023.23** Information noted.

#### Any Other Business

**2023.24** DF mentioned that a sinkhole had appeared within Great Catchwater Drain. Clerk advised Members that this had been reported to both Lincolnshire County Council and the Environment Agency but at this point was not a Board issue, however, Officers would be monitoring the situation.

#### Date of Next Meeting

**2023.25** Chair confirmed date of 5 June 2023 and thanked all for attending.

  
12/6/2023