



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 10 January 2023

Present

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

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

Mr Paul Jones – Engineer to the Board	PJ
Mr Mark Joynes – Finance Officer	MJ
Mr Craig Benson – Clerk to the Board	CB

Apologies for Absence

2023.1 None were received.

Declaration of Interest

2023.2 CB explained to members they could declare any interest at the beginning of the meeting or when any particular matter was discussed. None were declared.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2023.3 **Election of Chairman.** JB nominated Mr Martin Belton for the role of Chairman, MD seconded and all members were in agreement. MB was duly elected Chairman and the Clerk immediately passed over control of the meeting to him at that point.

2023.4 **Election of Vice-Chairman.** DMT nominated Mr John Barker and JO seconded. All members were in agreement and JB was duly elected to the role of Vice-Chairman.

Minutes of the Meeting held 14 June 2022

2023.5 Minutes of the last meeting were circulated with the meeting papers. The minutes were taken as read. **MB proposed and JB seconded the Minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman,** all in agreement.

Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

2023.6 There were none.

CEO's Report

The Clerk's report was read and approved.



Matters Arising

2023.7 Legislation – Environment Act: CB reminded Members that records are based on 1991 legislation for domestic and non-domestic properties, and that agricultural values were based on annual rental values as determined in 1988. Transfers between agricultural and levies are based on rates per hectare and, as rural land is rated relatively low, transfers to levies result in only slight increases to special levy value. The Environment Agency were looking to at the possibility of establishing new IDBs in Cumbria, but they were unable to do so as the above-mentioned rating lists were no longer available. DEFRA had set up a working group, with a view to seek a new method for rating land. This has been successful and it is hoped the methodology would be implemented in approximately 18 months' time.

2023.8 Possible Impact on Goole Fields DDB: CB reminded the Board that for Goole Fields DB the split between rated land and levies is approximately 80/20% and the current rate in the pound is 23.5p, 1p bringing in only around £1,400. This split allowed for five elected Board Members and one member to be nominated by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Under the proposed new method, as mentioned above, the indication was that the split between agriculture and special levies would be 60/40%. Due to the increase in annual values it was also suggested that the penny rate would also reduce to generate the same level of income. DMT estimated the rate could be set to approximately 13p to preserve the current level of income from agricultural rate payer and this would increase the special levy collected from ERYC. The Clerk confirmed that this was the overall direction of travel but pointed out that these figures were only indicative and would be confirmed if the Board decided to revalue the district.

2023.9 Warping Drain: DMT pointed out that the only route for some water in the district is through Warping Drain. CB said the pumping station and the pipeline will both need improvement works at some point in the future and as things stood, to borrow £100,000 would require an increase of 5p in the rate for 25 years. JB said the Board would have to continue to maintain Warping Drain as it took water from Thorne Moors. He said it was working but would function better were it cleaned more regularly. CB said the Board had an agreement with Reedness & Swinefleet DB and which amounted to £600 per year to allow the discharge of water from the pumping station. CB suggested the Board might commit a portion of its maintenance budget to maintaining the drain, even if it was on an occasional basis, say one year in ten. JB said the area was overgrown with trees, but a pontoon was presently being used. DMT said it was untimely not our responsibility. MB said he understood this view, but the Board should be available to help. CB said the agreement was an old one and perhaps should be renegotiated. DMT said Reedness & Swinefleet would not be happy with the present agreement, despite being within existing parameters. JB said the Warping Drain was only draining the same amount of land it was in the 1960s.

2023.10 GDPR & Data Sharing: CB explained the policies had to be adjusted slightly to reflect modern legislation. JB proposed the Board adopt the policies and MB seconded.

2023.11 Environment Agency. CB informed the Board the EA had updated their flood risk management plans and that the Board had adjust their own to align with the national strategy. There were now three objectives instead of five.

2023.12 Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy: CB explained the potential impacts on the Board in their attempts to protect people & property from flooding. He said businesses in the area were considering their options. One possibility is to lower the flood banks in an area where flood water can be safely stored. The footprint is enormous and stretched down to Mablethorpe.

2023.13 ADA: CB informed the Board there will be a demonstration of working machinery at Dysons Farm at Carringtons and encouraged Members to attend.

Finance Report

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

Matters Arising

2023.14 Rating: The finance officer reported all rates & the special levies for the year ending 31 March 2023 and the balance was nil.

2023.15 Internal Audit: Members noted the minutes of the Audit Review Panel that took place on 13 December 2022. The finance officer also gave a brief summary of the matters discussed, stating there was little to add to matters already discussed in previous years.

2023.16 External Audit: Members noted that audit for the year ended 31 March 2022 was complete with no matters arising.

2023.17 Risk Register: Members reviewed the draft Risk Register prepared on behalf of the Board. MJ said it was largely unchanged from the previous year with the only adjustment being to regrade the risks associated with high costs in light of the present economic climate. **JB proposed the Board approve the Register, MD seconded, and all agreed.**

2023.18 Estimates for the Year Ending 31 March 2024: MJ gave members a brief explanation of the estimates for the coming year and invited members to discuss options, stating the estimates should be reviewed in conjunction with the five-year forecast in the next section. JB enquired about the increase in expected pumping station costs and asked if the increase was in proportion to industry in general, should the Board use the same quantity of electricity. MD pointed out that less electricity had been consumed in the year with pumps hardly running between March & November 2022. JB asked about expected costs, as compared to costs already incurred in the present year. MJ said he had been in discussion with contacts at the Woldmarsh Buying Group and had discussed the matter. The Board had been in contract until the end of September 2022 and were presently looking to buy in bulk from April 2023 onwards. Costs remained very high, however, with much uncertainty around wholesale costs and to what extent government subsidies would continue to apply. CB said the worst case would be if the subsidies were removed entirely. CB also said the standing charges were high. Some prices had returned from Woldmarsh in relation small sites in other IDBs but were still around 38p/kWh. CB informed the members the officers looked at average consumption and attempted to determined likely costs based on that usage along with expected price increases. CB also said the Board's reserves could be eaten away within two years if usage remained high, so it is vital the Board are prudent in setting the rate. He reminded members there are mechanisms within the act to raise additional rates within the year, but he had never known those powers be exercised. MB said the government would have to continue to support entities with the subsidies. JB noted the Board estimated they would have £20,000 in their reserves at the end of the current year and that should be adequate. **MB proposed holding the rate at 23.5p and DMT seconded.**

2023.19 Five-Year Forecast: Members noted the information, in particular the expected depletion of reserves given the currently intended rates. But, given the proposed revaluations previously discussed, this could change significantly.

2023.20 Schedule of Payments: The Board approved for signature by the Chairman a schedule of payments made since the last meeting totalling £11,154.49, of which £1,853.85 were paid by direct debit or approved by the Officers only. MD asked if the Board's contractors had been paid yet. MJ said no bill had yet been received but was expected soon. **JB proposed the Board approve the schedule and DMT seconded.**

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report was read and approved.



Matters Arising

2023.21 Carbon Capture Pipelines: PJ informed Members the project covered Selby Area IDB, Ouse & Humber IDB, Goole & Airmyn IDB, Goole Fields DDB, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB and Ancholme IDB, and National Grid will deal with each drainage authority separately. He reported that two meetings had already taken place and they are aware of the need for consent. In terms of which assets will be impacted, there was an indicative 600m easement presented in the meetings. But as this would cover the entirety of some IDB Districts, a pipeline specific shapefile was requested to help identify which watercourses would be impacted. JB asked when they come to Shipcote Drain, would they thrust through or cut under the drain. PJ said under was more likely, hence the need for a better indicative route, and that if they were to redirect any drainage systems, the receiving watercourses should be at the right bed levels. MB asked when they are looking to proceed. PJ said they were looking at a Development Consent Order (DCO), but the intentions is 2023 and 2024. JB said they need to understand that from Drax all the way to the Trent is at or below sea level, and that they can't work in winter. PJ added that he had flagged up buoyancy issues as well as gas pipes have floated in past flood situations. Temporary works Consent would be required. They will ultimately follow the rules of the Board under the Land Drainage Act, and they will likely look to disapply the Board's Bylaws and agree a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG), to be submitted with the DCO stating what National Grid have agreed with the Board. JB said they will need a temporary bridge if thrusting under watercourses. MD said when gas pipes were laid in the 1970s, a bailey bridge was placed across the drain. PJ said Consent would be required for any crossing, and that temporary or small culverts would be required. All this information will be included in the SOCG.

2023.22 Natural England: PJ informed the Board Natural England (NE) met with CB, PJ and MB and that their report is complete, the initial findings of which are available as outlined in the papers. He said the short-term objectives are to lower water levels over the next 3-4 years to reduce the impact on the Goole Fields district and maintain the watercourses within the SSSI boundary flowing to the NE pump. They will look to establish further monitoring over longer timescales to ascertain how water can come into the catchment in a flood situation. JB confirmed the drain from the new pump to Thorne Moors was now clear, with water flowing visibly. PJ said the short-term plan for the next few years is to retain the SSSI boundary ditch and permit flow to the pump. In discussions with NE, it was mentioned that maintenance of the ditch benefited the moors as well as rate payers of the Board, and they asked whether the Board would undertake the maintenance in future as it had permissive powers of access, with contributions from NE. MB said if the Board take on the maintenance, the full section would be required, including some parts of the moors that did not belong to landowners in the area. DMT asked if the Board can access it. JB asked who carried out the works. PJ confirmed it was Sweeting Bros. MD Said Fillingham had carried out some digging in the area outside the Board District. DMT said if the Board's contractor is in the area, moving machines to the required areas was possible, and it may be ok in principle. MB said NE had suggested it could be maintained once every five years, but this might not be enough. NE would not be able to secure the funds every year for land they don't own. PJ said maintaining the watercourse would benefit the Board. JB if the Board could make a contribution rather than instructing the works, as their contractor would be doing works anyway on their own land, and said J Canty would be unlikely to volunteer, and Sweetings may be more cost effective if they were there doing work already. The Board accepted the idea in principle, subject to details. JB asked what would happen to their section of Warping Drain. PJ & MB confirmed NE did plan to undertake these works and JB said he understood the requirement for them.

2023.23 Member Left Meeting: DMT left the meeting shortly before 3:00pm.

2023.24 Longer Term Effects: PJ said he had had a good discussion with Julian Small of NE who had acknowledged links between the catchment, and that NE would work



alongside the Board. PJ informed the Board there are a number of longer-term options in relation to potential improvements. The capacity of the drains or pumping stations could potentially be improved, but that may be limited by what could be discharged into Warping Drain. A water balance is the next step and NE will report back. MB reiterated the view it was a constructive meeting and Julian seemed confident about securing funding in a way that would benefit all parties.

2023.25 Associated British Ports: PJ reported to the Board that ABP had replaced the door and the question of ownership of the concrete structure had been raised again. He reiterated it was outside the drainage district. ABP have asked their estates teams to report back and are looking to arrange a meeting. JB enquired about the condition of the door. MD said it had improved but was still leaking. He also said the installation had proved difficult, the stanchion being right in front of the gate at the point it opens. PJ said he had established a number of new contacts in the Sites Team and the Estates Team. PJ stated that if the Board were to replace the seals then the IDB may inadvertently take on liabilities as this structure is outside the District and there are no legal power of access to it.

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

2023.26 Swinefleet Drain: JB said he had recently walked out to Thorne Moors and the water was running reasonably well, reaching the outfall quite nicely. He stated the need to get English Nature to clean out the section from the pump to the moor culvert. The problems relate to the fact that Warping Drain was not cleared out in the section between the pumps.

2023.27 Landowner Works in District: MB said on the entrance past the old blacksmith's site, the concrete path was too high, and the landowner had asked for the Board to pipe it. The landowner said a wagon diver had refused to traverse it and MB said it may prove similarly awkward for the Board. PJ recommended not to pipe the watercourse and reminded the Board no obstructions were permitted within 9m of the edge of the watercourse without the Consent of the Board. The Board may wish to pursue the landowner to remedy. Also, under the Board's bylaws no obstruction is permitted that may prevent access. He also said no public money should be spent installing such a pipe and the landowner should fund the project themselves and accept future liability.

Date of next meeting

2023.28 The meeting was closed at approximately 3:30pm. The next main meeting will take place at 2:00pm on Tuesday, 13 June 2023, with the venue likely to be Swinefleet Village Hall once again.

UPDATE: at the request of the Chairman, the above meeting will be moved back one hour to 1:00pm, with the date & venue remaining the same.

1.4 Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere