

1. Governance

Recommendations:

- Note the information contained in this report

1.1 Apologies for Absence

1.2 Declaration of Interest

1.3 Minutes of the Meeting held 7 February 2023

Member	10.2.21	22.6.21	9.11.21	8.2.22	21.6.22	8.11.22	7.2.23
Mrs Rosemary J Webster (Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr John Richard Fawbert	√	√	A	√	√	√	√
Mr Graham W Martinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mrs Rita Brough (Vice Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr Mally Boatman	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr Keith Moore	√	√	Resigned				
EYRC							
Mr Brent Huntington	√	A	√	√	A	√	√
Cllr Liz Sargeantson	√	A	-	A	-	-	-
Cllr Nick Coultish	A	√	A	-	A	-	-
Cllr David Jeffreys	A	A	√	√	A	√	√
Cllr Barbara Jeffreys	A	Resigned					
Cllr Anne Handley	A	A	√	A	-	A	-

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

Craig Benson (Clerk)
Roger Smith (Engineer)
David Blake (Finance Officer)
Janette Parker (Ratings Officer)

Clerk
Eng.
FO
RO

GOVERNANCE

2023.1 Apologies for Absence – None received.

2023.2 Minutes of Meeting 8 November 2022 – Minutes considered and proposed as true record by RB seconded by JRF.

2023.3 Matters Arising – None.

2023.4 FOI/Complaints – None received.

CLERK'S REPORT

2023.5 Policy – Clerk advised the Board's Flood Risk Policy Statement had been updated and confirmed the changes made. **Approval proposed by BH, seconded RB.**

2023.6 Environment Agency – Information noted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 2023.7** Rate Report – FO confirmed that all the rates had now been collected.
- 2023.8** List of Payments – Approval proposed by MB and seconded JRF.
- 2023.9** Risk Register – FO advised members of the changes. **Approval proposed DJ and seconded MB.**
- 2023.10** Rates & Special Levies for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 – FO distributed additional supplement and took members through financial position advising that electricity costs had increased by 100 to 120%. Chair queried if actual rates had been received. FO confirmed they had and were 35-45p/kwh with Government relief. He then added that Woldmarsh believed costs would level out during the year. BH queried if a better rate was available for night time pumping. FO confirmed that the night-time rate was circa 20p/kwh less. FO then advised that the Board were in a very good position as had 18 months of reserves and would make a surplus in the current year of £80,000 and stated as a result he was recommending that a rate increase was not required. Chair pointed out that there was likely to be an increase in costs with the new maintenance contractor so needed to ensure the Board were covered. Eng. confirmed that maintenance would be close to the budgeted figure of £25,000 for the current year and the contractor was entitled to increase his rate by 9-10% which would mean an additional £2,500 and there could also be a further claim for increased diesel costs. FO confirmed that this had been budgeted for and advised that income was still significantly exceeding expenditure and even with the transfers into the Capital Works account he did not foresee the need for a rate increase. Eng. added that from April onwards the Watercourse Maintenance Contract would be put out to tender externally with an approximate cost of £3,500 and subsequent increased cost the following year with new contractor prices. FO again re-iterated that a surplus would be made this year and extremes had already been accounted for. Chair advised the rate had last been increased in 2015 and asked what effect a rise would have. Clerk confirmed a one pence increase would raise £53,000, a half-pence would raise £26,000 with a quarter increase raising £13,000. MB referred to the expected costs of replacement pumps and stated it would be prudent to avoid PWLB funds in future and that should increase the rate now so the Board can reduce the amount they have to borrow. DJ advised that PWLB was current at 6%. FO acknowledged that any additional transfers to the capital replacement account would reduce the levels needed to borrow in for future capital schemes. Eng. referred to the Management Contract stating that an inflationary increase was proposed. RB queried if this increase would utilise the reserves but FO confirmed an appropriate inflationary increase had been budgeted for. Officers were asked to leave the meeting whilst this was discussed. Upon Officers returning Chair asked for clarification on means for the increase and Clerk confirmed this would be at the CPI rate in accordance with the Board's Contract. **JRF proposed approval of, DJ seconded and all in agreement.** Chair then advised discussions had taken place regarding a 1 pence rate increase. **BH proposed increase to 5.9p, MB seconded and all members in agreement.**

The Board considered an Estimate of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2024, copies of which had been previously circulated to members.

In accordance with Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act, the Board determined that the aggregate annual value of chargeable properties in the district and 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	£ 5,253,353
b) Aggregate value of all other land	£ 110,159

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 £6,499 by way of an Occupier's rate of 5.90p 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: -

East Riding of Yorkshire Council	£ 309,947
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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.

ENGINEERS REPORT

2023.11 Pumping Stations – Eng. advised with regards electricity costs that stations were currently on low level sensors. He confirmed that he had just received a quote of £1,400 per unit for digital time clocks in order to assist in converting to night-time pumping. He added that there would be a fitting fee to add but that it was the right direction to proceed in and asked the Board for approval to proceed or if they required another quotation. Clerk asked if the clocks would have an override so that if water reached a certain height then the pumps would activate regardless. Eng. then explained how each clock would work. **Further discussions took place with JRF recommending that a further quotation be obtained with the Chair concurring.** RB proposed that they be put in the two largest stations first as a test. Clerk added that the Eng. should contact the MEICA Engineer of Ancholme IDB who had knowledge of the Board's pumps for a quote.

2023.12 Maintenance – Information noted. Eng advised that a consent had been granted for Siemens to erect a fence but that this had not been erected at 9 metres as consented and in some instances was only 6 to 7 metres from the watercourse. He added that a letter would be sent advising them they were in contravention of consent. However, as a result of that, there had been an instance where the contractor had accidentally hit the fence. Chair stated this was Siemens issue as they had provided insufficient access.

2023.13 LDA 191 Section 23 Breach – Eng. discussed issue as stated in papers then advised that notice had been served on Beal Homes prior to Christmas and that the spoil had now been removed. Eng. explained that it had been timely to achieve this however it's a good position for the Board.

2023.14 East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Eng distributed a supplement to the papers relating to ERYC consent request to erect a cycle path, footpath and road to the north side of the watercourse at Guardian Glass. He said he advised EYRC this was not acceptable as it restricted access to the watercourse however, EYRC had proposed taking over the Board's obligation for maintenance on that section. **Discussions took place with All Members in agreement that the Board will continue to maintain that section of the watercourse and that access was required.**

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2023.15 Clerk advised the Eng. that the incident relating to the Contractor and the fence needed formally recording.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2023.16 MB requested an update on the re-constitution of the Board. Clerk advised that Ministerial approval was still awaited.

2023.17 FO requested Members approval to add RB to the bank mandate. **JRF proposed and DJ seconded.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2023.18 20 June 2023, 3.00pm at The Courtyard, Goole.