

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 November 2023

Member	9.11.21	8.2.22	21.6.22	8.11.22	7.2.23	20.6.23	7.11.23
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	√	√	√	√
Cllr Liz Sargeantson	-	A	-	-	-	-	-
Cllr Nick Coultish	A	-	A	-	-	-	A
Cllr David Jeffreys	√	√	A	√	√	√	√
Cllr Anne Handley	√	A	-	A	-	-	-

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

Craig Benson (Clerk)	Clerk
Roger Smith (Engineer)	Eng.
David Blake (Finance Officer)	FO
Janette Parker (Ratings Officer)	RO

GOVERNANCE

- 2023.46** Apologies for Absence – Cllr Nick Coultish.
- 2023.47** Declarations of Interest – None.
- 2023.48** Minutes of Meeting held 20 June 2023 – Minutes considered and proposed as true record by DJ seconded by MB.
- 2023.49** Matters Arising – DJ advised in relation to Item 2023.44 that the matter was not considered as a planning issue and was between the developer and subsequent purchaser.
- 2023.50** FOI/Complaints – None received.

CLERK'S REPORT

- 2023.51** Re-Constitution – Information noted.
- 2023.52** Works on the River Aire – Information noted with MB reporting that some water had come over but that the defences had done what they have should have done. The Clerk stated he would report this back to the Agency.

2023.53 ADA – Information noted with Clerk adding that ADA had issued a letter to DEFRA mentioning river embankments, maintenance and recovery support funding for IDB's in flood events and would keep Members updated on any progress.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2023.54 Razte Report – RO advised that whilst the second instalment of the special levy payment had been made a small area of land was now under development and requested approval to remove drainage rates of £23.42 with the area to be added to special levy. **Approval proposed by DJ, seconded by MG and all in agreement.** RO then confirmed that one ratepayer, who had been informed, had paid twice so the balance was currently in credit.

2023.55 List of Payments – BH queried the payments to Ancholme IDB, Sow & Penk IDB, Schofield Sweeney Solicitors and the ICO. FO advised that Ancholme IDB provided access to Land Registry for those within the Shire Group, Sow & Penk provided the card payment facility for those within the Group and the payment to ICO was for statutory obligations. The Eng confirmed that the solicitor fees related to the legal challenge in respect of ERYC and Siemens. **Approval proposed by DJ and seconded RB.**

2023.56 External Internal Audit – FO confirmed this was now complete with no issues having been raised.

2023.57 Audit Review Meeting – FO advised this was to be held on 20th November and that RB usually attended on behalf of the Board.

2023.58 Budget Comparison for Year Ending 31 March 2023 – FO advised Members that the finances were where they would be expected to be for the time of year. He reported that bank interest had seen a significant increase and funds were now on a 92-day deposit. FO added that Woldmarsh had confirmed that the current day rate of 22p/kwh and night rate of 17p/kwh were expected to remain static for the next 12 to 18 months advising that the current regime of night-time pumping would help lower costs.

2023.59 Five Year Forecast – FO advised this was for note adding that the Board were in a very good position with reserves well above the 50% target. He also confirmed that the forecast did include inflation. MB noted the differences in the Highways England Contribution levels. FO noted the issue and said it would be clarified.

ENGINEERS REPORT

2023.60 Pumping Stations – Eng. advised that only one quotation had been received at circa £8,000 for four of the larger stations to be painted both internally and externally advising that he was quite confident with the contractor as they had previously undertaken works for other IDBs and the Environment Agency. Approval proposed by DJ and seconded by MB.

2023.61 Eng advised that Oriel who provide the Board's telemetry system had been in contact regarding a test site for solar panels. He confirmed that he and the Shire Group's other Engineer, Paul Jones, had attended a meeting but there were still several unknowns that they required clarification on. He added that the Board may want to consider the suggestion once all the information was provided and would keep Members informed.

2023.62 The Eng confirmed that 90mm rain had been received in October and he expected electricity costs to increase due to the fact that pumping had been switched to day-time to help with removal of the excess water. He did state that no localised issues had been experienced although external staff had been brought in to assist where necessary.

2023.63 Watercourse Maintenance – Eng reported that progress had been disappointing and that a meeting had been held with the Contractor and was now being sorted. In relation to the issue of the fence at Siemens he reported that this had now been put back to 9 metres from the watercourse resulting in a successful conclusion for the Board. MB queried if this now meant that public access had been restored to the rear of Siemens. Eng reported that it was not for public access but so the Board could maintain the watercourse.

2023.64 Planning Applications – The Eng raised his concerns that comments made on the planning portal were not being considered by the planning department. DJ confirmed that he had never seen any comments on reports that appeared before the planning committee. Chair asked if he could raise this with them to which he agreed.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2023.65 Clerk advised that surveys had been carried out under the Board's BAP and that evidence of water voles had been found although they were scarce in other regions. He added that another Board within the Shire Group had installed mink traps at some of its pump stations and recently received a report that 17 minks had been caught within the last year stating the Board may wish to consider the same. He confirmed the traps and service was free of charge. **BH agreed that there were a lot of mink within the district and proposed the traps be installed at the Board's stations. MB seconded the proposal with all in favour.**

Further update – The traps were part of a scheme looking specifically at migration of mink across the River Trent. It has now been established that Helen Norford at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is setting up a mink trapping network in the Goole area. Contact with Helen on behalf of the Board will be made. There may be a requirement to contribute towards the cost of monitoring the traps which can be taken from the Board's BAP budget.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2023.66 Information noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2023.67 6 February 2024, 18 June 2024 and 12 November 2024, 3.00pm at The Courtyard, Goole.

1.4 Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

1.5 FOI/Complaints

The Board has received no complaints or FOI requests since the last meeting.