

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 18 June 2024

Member	21.6.22	8.11.22	7.2.23	20.6.23	7.11.23	6.2.24	18.6.24
Mrs Rosemary J Webster (Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr John Richard Fawbert	√	√	√	√	-	-	-
Mr Graham W Martinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mrs Rita Brough (Vice Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr Mally Boatman	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
EYRC							
Mr Brent Huntington	A	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Liz Sargeantson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cllr Nick Coultish	A	-	-	-	A	√	-
Cllr David Jeffreys	A	√	√	√	√	√	A
Cllr Anne Handley	-	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 (Rating Officer)	RO

GOVERNANCE

2024.22 Apologies for Absence – Cllr. D. Jeffreys.

2024.23 Declaration of Interest – None.

2024.24 Minutes of Meeting held 6 February 2024 – Minutes considered and proposed as true record by RB and seconded by MB.

2024.25 Matters Arising – None.

2024.26 FOI/Complaints – Clerk advised that an FOI was recently received but that it related to flood risk groups specifically and a response would be issued in due course. RB advised that she was on the Goole Resilience Group.

CLERK'S REPORT

2024.27 Legislation – Clerk confirmed that DEFRA were in the process of pushing to get approval of the Ratings Statutory Instrument.

- 2024.28** Re-Constitution – The Clerk advised this had now been advertised as required and that DEFRA were again pushing for approval to be made. He was hopeful that this could be finalised at the next meeting of the Board.
- 2024.29** Policy – Noted.
- 2024.30** ADA – The Clerk informed Members of the IDB Recovery and Asset Improvement Grant and that a submission had been made under the first tranche for the additional operating costs generated during the storm events along with the cost of lifting the pumps at Downes Ground, Hook Clough and Orchard Cottage Pump Stations in order to inspect and make any necessary repairs following the excessive usage they experienced during the storms. He added that with regards the second tranche, works were underway by Officers to submit a further bid for improvement works however, this would be dependent upon what could be completed within the timescale given that all works had to be done by 31st March 2025. BH asked if this funding would change based on the upcoming Election results. The Clerk advised that based on the discussions held with ADA and DEFRA that it should not do as the funds were held separately.
- 2024.31** Drainage Rate System – Clerk advised Members of the current situation advising that it would be beneficial to remain with the current system for now as indications were that it could take up to a year to develop something new and the current timeframes involved would not allow for that.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 2024.32** Rate Report – FO advised that 91.9% of the Rates had been collected along with 50% of the Special Levies.
- 2024.33** List of Payments – Approval proposed by BH and seconded by MB.
- 2024.34** Audit – FO stated the auditor had reported that the Board had a Sound System of Control in place.
- 2024.35** Electricity Provider Review – FO confirmed to Members that a review of providers had taken place and issued a comparison for Downes Ground PS. Discussions took place with FO advising that other Boards within the Shire Group were also undertaking the review and a meeting was to be held in July to agree on a supplier from 1st September/October and asked if the Chair wished to part of that meeting or advised of the outcome so that a decision could then be taken. MB stated it would be more beneficial to be part of a larger group. RB asked how solid the alternative companies were. FO replied that due diligence would be undertaken as part of the meeting being held and that a few of the companies had been recommended by farmers on other Boards. Chair asked if Npower had been approached directly and MB queried if Woldmarsh had been advised to see if they came back with more favourable rates. FO stated that neither had been undertaken as yet but would do so and advise. **Members agreed the FO would report back to the Chair and Vice Chair following the meeting in July for a decision as to how this Board wished to proceed.**
- 2024.36** Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 1 – FO took members through with approval proposed by BH and seconded by RB.
- 2024.37** Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 – FO referred to the supplement issued with the papers and took members through confirming that whilst expenditure had increased additional income had been raised following the rate increase and from interest payments with the balance carried forward being £305,253 giving the Board a health balance sheet. **Approval proposed by MB and seconded by RB.**
- 2024.38** Budget Comparison for Year Ended 31 March 2024 – FO took members through.
- 2024.39** Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 2 – FO took members through with approval proposed by MB and seconded by RB.
- 2024.40** Five Year Forecast – Information noted.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Engineer advised the report was for noted with the following updates:

2024.41 Pumping Stations – Eng requested Board consent to install a rain gauge to the roof of Downes Ground PS. Discussions took place with BH asking why that station to which Eng advised it would be less at risk of vandalism than at the others. He added that data should be available for the next meeting so a decision could be taken if it was beneficial to have at other stations, with the Clerk adding that it would be useful to compare against the invoices received. The Eng added he would also investigate whether a more robust gauge was available that was less prone to being damaged. **Proposal was approved by BH and seconded by RB.**

2024.42 Planning Applications – Eng reported that he had attended a meeting with James Chatfield from EYRC following the Council not recognising the Board's concerns raised on the planning portal but felt they were not very supportive of the Board's position. He added that he had offered to show Councillor Jeffreys the issues but a date for this was yet to be agreed.

2024.43 Land Drainage Act Section 23 and 66 Consents – Eng advised that a section of watercourse had failed on Rawcliffe Road Drain and that he would be approaching the riparian landowner to undertake works to repair. Several other consents and planning matters were also discussed.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2024.44 Clerk advised that a plan for the BAP was being looked at with a replacement for the Boards Environment Officer being sourced who would be in attendance at the next meeting.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2024.45 Information noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2024.46 12 November 2024, 4 February 2025 and 17 June 2025 all at 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.