



In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting

Officer:	Mr C Benson	Clerk
	Mr P Jones	Engineer
	Mr D Blake	Finance Officer
	Miss J Parker	Rating Officer

Also in attendance:

Mr M Adams	Environment Agency
Mrs T Smalley	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Declaration of Interest

2024.26 Clerk in Item 2.7 and NS in respect of any planning applications.

Apologies for Absence

2024.27 Apologies were received from Mr. I. Dowson, Mr. M. Storey and Mr. T. Sutton-Nelthorpe.

Minutes of the Meeting 10 January 2024

2024.28 Minutes approved as true record by AG and seconded BJ.

Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

2024.29 Chair advised that Mr. S. Buckley had resigned his position with the Board. Discussions took place with regards the two Councillors who had not attended with Clerk advising that he had contacted the Council but had received no response. CS advised that could take it that they would not be attending any meetings.

Complaints/FOI/EIR Requests

2024.30 None.

Presentation by Ancholme Catchment Partnership

2024.31 A presentation was given by Tammy Smalley from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. She confirmed that the Catchment Partnerships draft strategy would be out for Public Consultation in June. She added that there was a possibility of a reservoir being placed somewhere within the Boards district.

CLERK REPORT

Clerk advised the report was for information with the following added.

2024.32 Policy – Clerk advised there were three policies that needed Board approval and these related to the Employees. **RD proposed approval and CS seconded.**

2024.33 Legislation - Environment Bill – Clerk advised that formal confirmation was still awaited.

2024.34 ADA – Clerk advised that the grant forms had been received today which would enable the Board to recover costs from the recent Storm events with the first application due in 2 weeks and the second due on 28th June. He added that existing Contractors would need to be utilised under the emergency section of the Board's financial regulations due to the short timescale of 31st March 2025 when all works had to be completed by.

2024.35 Election Year – **approval to procedures in papers proposed by RH and seconded by BJ.**

2024.36 Drainage Rate System – Clerk advised that possible funding was available and several IDBs had expressed an interest in developing a new system but that the timescale was tight to complete this by 31st March 2025. He therefore proposed that the Board stay with the current provider.

2024.37 Employee Remuneration – **Discussions took place after the Clerk left the meeting and an increase of 3.2%, in line with CPI and the Contracts, was proposed by RH and seconded by RD.** Eng confirmed that appraisals had recently taken place and that the additional hours worked during the storm events confirmed their commitment to working with the Board adding that 500 plus hours had been worked across this district and in Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB in addition to normal working



hours. RH queried if overtime had been paid. Eng confirmed it had and would be recovered from the funding available as linked to the storm events.

2024.38 Environment Agency – Mark Adams provided an update stating that 142% of the long- term average rainfall had been received during October to March and that the Agency had received no additional funding as a result so works would have to be prioritised. He added that the Agency would support the Board in anyway it could with its funding application. With regards the Middle Ancholme Catchment Partnership he advised that progress was slower than anticipated due to the weather conditions and that he expected the outline business case to be submitted this time next year with approval expected in July 2025 and works to begin on site in Spring/Summer 2026. He reiterated the need to optimise what we had, to look at removing water off land as quickly as possible and how to get temporary storage in exceedance conditions. JAn queried the situation at Bishopbridge with the Rase and the Ancholme stating that the balance of water needed to be managed better. MA stated that they needed to first understand the consequences downstream of any alterations but that it was on the list for consideration.

FINANCE REPORT

2024.39 Rating Report – FO advised the outstanding balance was now £1,428.00 with three accounts in probate and one account still being pursued. He added that new rate demands had been issued with 20% of rates and 50% of levies collected to date.

2024.40 Internal Audit – FO advised this was now complete with the Auditor stating the Board complied with relevant laws and regulations although he did express concerns with the depleted reserve level which the FO stated related to the increase in electricity costs.

2024.41 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 1 – FO took members through with **approval proposed by AG and seconded by HW.**

2024.42 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 – FO issued a supplement to the papers and discussed with members advising a reduction in the reserve level to 10% from the target at 30%. Chair requested a breakdown of the staff costs between the Board and S&GWMB for review at the next meeting. Eng added that moving forwards the split should be more even as a new electric duty pump would be fitted at Ravensfleet to aid the diesel pumps until the new station was completed. **Approval of Accounts proposed by HW and seconded by CS.**

2024.43 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 2 – FO took members through with **approval proposed by AG and seconded by HW.**

2024.44 Budget Comparison for the Year Ending 31 March 2024 – FO discussed with members advising the deficit of £153,549 resulted in the reduction of the reserve level mainly due to the pumping station costs.

2024.45 Electricity Spend - FO explained the graphs provided in the papers stating that historically Board costs would be around £60,000 to £120,000 but due to the increase in unit rates and the amount of pumping undertaken this had increased to £130,000 for a dry year and £260,000 for a wet year. He believed moving forwards the Board needed to be more proactive when budget setting as if two successive wet years were experienced then reserve levels would not be sustained.

2024.46 Electricity Provider Review – FO distributed an additional supplement following receipt of information from new suppliers. Discussions took place with the proposal that a transfer date of 1st October be set with a meeting to be held mid-July once final quotations had been received and that delegated powers be given to the Chair and Vice Chair to review and decide. **All members in agreement to the proposals.**

2024.47 Schedule of Payments – **approval proposed by NS and seconded by BJ.**

2024.48 RH thanked the FO for a well set out and presented set of Accounts to which the Chair concurred.

ENGINEER REPORT

Eng confirmed the report was for information with the following added.

2024.49 Hydraulic Model – Eng gave a presentation on the modelling outputs and confirmed that a link had been sent to all members containing Smart PDFs with a request for them to review and provide any comments by the end of June so that baseline outputs could be finalized. He added that works were still required to enable the Board model and that held by the EA to interact together advising that the modelling would provide necessary evidence in order to receive grant monies etc.

2024.50 Telemetry – Eng confirmed installations were continuing to progress.

2024.51 Hibaldstow – Eng advised that the pump was due to be removed shortly and a report on the current condition would allow a business case to be put together for Grant in Aid funds.

2024.52 Main River Maintenance – Eng confirmed that working with the EA to confirm works and that options would be included to claim from the DEFRA fund in the Asset Improvement section due to be submitted on 28th June. TS asked if a letter from the Ancholme Catchment Partnership would assist with the application and the Chair thanked her stating this would be helpful.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

2024.53 Information in the report was noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISER REPORT

2024.54 Information in the report was noted with the Clerk adding that Mink traps were to be installed at all of the pumping stations within the district.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2024.55 6th November 2024, 8th January 2025, 21st May 2025.

Chair closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.

1.6 Matters arising there from not elsewhere on Agenda

1.7 Complaints/FOI/EIR requests

None received.