



# 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 11 June 2024

MEMBER	10.1. 2023	13.6. 2023	9.1. 2024	11.6. 2024		
Martin Belton (MB) – <i>Chair</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Michael Dougherty (MD)	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Douglas McTaggart (DMT)	✓	✓	✓	A		
John Barker (JB) – <i>Vice Chair</i>	✓	✓	A	✓		
John Oldridge (JO)	✓	A	✓	A		
Cllr Liz Sargeantson (LS)	-	-	-	-		

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

Mr Craig Benson – Clerk to the Board  
Mr Mark Joynes – Finance Officer

Clerk  
FO

### Apologies for Absence

**2024.21** Apologies were received from Mr John Oldridge and Mr Douglas McTaggart. Apologies were also received from the Board's Engineer Mr Paul Jones.

### Declaration of Interest

**2024.22** Clerk explained to Members they could declare any interest at the beginning of the meeting or when any particular matter was discussed. None were declared.

### Minutes of the Meeting held 9 January 2024

**2024.23** Minutes of the last meeting were circulated with the meeting papers. MB observed the inconsistent styling in the minutes, in that the Board's Engineer Paul Jones was referred to variously as 'PJ' and 'Eng'. The Clerk noted this and committed to refer to him as 'Eng' in future. Other than this minor issue, the minutes were taken as read. **MB proposed and MD seconded the Minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman, all in agreement.**

### Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

**2024.24** Members asked for an update on Associated British Ports. Clerk said Eng would update members as soon as was practical after his return to work.

### CEO's Report

The Clerk's report was read and approved.

### Matters Arising

**2024.25 Policies:** Members noted that no policies required Board approval and that the Board's website was currently being updated.

**2024.26 Legislation:** Clerk informed the Board that the consultation period had concluded for the IDB Ratings Statutory Instrument. No adverse comments had been received and the Board awaited the outcome. He also noted that whilst the matter lay with the Minister, a general election was underway and there may be delays.

**2024.27 Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy – Humber 2100+** Clerk informed Members of consultations and various workshops that had taken place. He said the strategy is looking at the management of the Humber Basin over the next 100 years.

**2024.28 IDB Asset Recovery & Improvement Grant:** Clerk informed the Board ADA had done a lot of work behind the scenes, involving the IDBs, EA and DEFRA. The £75m farming fund will be available for IDBs to recover from the Winter storm events. The first tranche (bid for funding) relates to storm recovery. It is intended to cover operational costs, where Boards can demonstrate the costs they incurred were over & above those in normal years. Also, it may be possible to claim for storm repairs where the Board's assets have been damaged. The second tranche relates to asset improvement. The Clerk informed the Board that the first deadline had now passed and that a request to recover approximately £5,600 for increased operating costs had been submitted on behalf of the Board. Also, a bid for approximately £47,000 to lift, inspect and repair the pumps had also been submitted. Any works must be done by the end of March 2025. EA had confirmed the bid had been received and decisions may be reached by mid-July 2024.

**2024.29 Tranche 2 - Asset Improvement:** Clerk informed the Board that Eng had been working hard to establish what items may or may not be claimed for. Officers had considered submitting a bid for the purchase of mobile pumps, but that the EA and DEFRA believed mobile pumps are not covered. Also, Officers were looking to obtain costs for a replacement pumping station discharge pipeline. The deadline is March 2025 and it is unlikely that a decision will be made until August 2024. The Board have until 28 June 2024 to submit the bid so this will be a tight deadline. Also, they had looked at the possibility of replacement pumps, but the lead time is 44 weeks. JB said a pipe would be good but what is the issue with running the pump? What proportion of the pipe's capacity does one pump take, presumably over 50%. Can inverters be placed on the pumps to slow them down so that 100% capacity can be achieved? Clerk said this was being looked into. Also, they were submitting a bid for increased maintenance. Not all watercourses are maintained usually, but if funds are available the Board could apply. Other Boards can put in a bid for main river works in area where the EA don't maintain. Clerk confirmed Eng will be in touch with the Chairman to discuss and said his main concern is to recover costs already incurred.

**2024.30 Drainage Rate System:** Clerk informed Members ADA are looking to deliver a new systems and support. Inclination is to stay where we are for now. Update: ADA are not seeking to develop a new Rating System.

### Finance Report

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

### Matters Arising

**2024.31 Rating:** Members noted information in the report included in the meeting papers. The Finance Officer also gave an update to Members, informing them the first instalment of the special levy for 2024/25 was received and approximately 77.8% of the drainage rates had also been received as of 11 June 2024.



**2024.32 Internal Audit:** The Finance Officer also gave a brief summary of the internal audit report, copies of which had been distributed to Members before the meeting. No major issues were reported. The longstanding issue with a nominated member from East Riding of Yorkshire Council was briefly discussed along with other perennial issues such as reserve levels and the Board's Risk Register and system backups, which were all considered satisfactory. The Internal Auditor noted the increased running costs and recommended increased monitoring of reserves moving forward.

**2024.33 External Audit:** The Finance Officer reported the documents would be submitted to the external auditor within the required timescales.

**2024.34 External Audit – Annual Governance Statement:** Members were asked to consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 contained within Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR). After reviewing the assertions MB proposed, MD seconded, and Members approved the statement.

**2024.35 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024:** Members reviewed the Accounts that were circulated with the meeting papers, and they agreed to approve the accounts as presented. Finance Officer noted that the Board had run a deficit of £6,202.48 for the year with the reserves at the year-end standing at £12,968.23 which FO noted were slightly low. JB proposed, MB seconded, and Members approved the statements. FO also discussed increased electricity costs and in particular, network charges and distribution costs. These would not change should the Board decide to change suppliers. The Clerk said standing charges had increased enormously and all IDBs had been impacted by Ofgem's decisions, as they did not require capacity all the time.

**2024.36 Budget Comparison:** Members noted the information in the report.

**2024.37 External Audit - Accounting Statements the Year Ending 31 March 2024:** Members were asked to consider and approve the Accounting Statements contained within Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, which were a summary of the accounting statements previously approved. MB proposed, MD seconded, and Members approved the statement.

**2024.38 Five-Year Forecast & Electricity Costs:** Members noted the information and discussed the increase in forecast electricity costs from £9,500 in 2024/25 to £15,000 in 2025/26. The resulting impact on the rate in the £ was also discussed, with the potential to increase to 30p in 2025/26. The Clerk said he hoped actual costs would be significantly lower, but Officers were compelled to let the Board know of the possible impact if usage stays at the current level. The Clerk said Officers were looking at other providers. Clerk asked what the Board could possibly cut down on. MB said the only options is to put the rate up. The Clerk said the revaluation may help to some extent. JB asked when it might happen. Clerk said he hopes the data would be available by the end of March 2025. It may be two more years before the Board sees any benefits. Any increase on ERYC's element is insignificant in terms of their wider budget, possible by around £10,000.

**2024.39 Schedule of Payments:** The Board approved for signature by the Chairman a schedule of payments made since the last meeting totalling £23,137.03, of which £17,907.67. were paid by direct debit or approved by the Officers only. **MD proposed the Board approve the schedule and JB seconded.**

**2024.40 Reedness & Swinefleet DB Costs:** The Clerk said he had still not received any revised agreement for the discharge of water into Swinefleet Warping Drain from Reedness & Swinefleet DB. He said they have submitted a bid (from the Storm Recovery Fund) to improve the drainage on their side. JB said they were lifting the pumps at present and that would be part any bid. The Clerk talked about increase of maintenance on Warping Drain. JB said they have an excavator where the moors meet Warping Drain. MD asked if they were considering installing a new door. Clerk said this would be monitored.

### **Engineer's Report**

The Engineer's report was read and approved.

### **Matters Arising**

**2024.41 Natural England:** The Clerk reported the water balance report had not yet been received. Also, Eng has refused a consent application that Natural England had submitted for their planned structures, until the report is received.

**2024.42 Associated British Ports:** Members noted the information in the report.

**2024.43 Ordinary Watercourses:** Clerk reported that two quotations were received for the ordinary watercourse maintenance which were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Based upon the cost comparison the incumbent contractor was likely to be re-appointed and the Chairman was to discuss with him.

**2024.44 Planning Applications:** Members noted the information in the report.

**2024.45 Consents:** Members noted the information in the report.

### **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**

**2024.46** There were no matters raised.

### **Date of next meeting**

**2024.47** The meeting was closed at approximately 1:50pm. The next main meeting will take place at 1:00pm on Tuesday, 7 January 2025, with the venue likely to be Swinefleet Village Hall.

**UPDATE:** Owing to unavailability the meeting was later rescheduled to Tuesday, 14 January 2025.