

# 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 12 November 2024

Member	8.11.22	7.2.23	20.6.23	7.11.23	6.2.24	18.6.24	12.11.24
Mrs Rosemary J Webster (Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr John Richard Fawbert	√	√	√	-	-	-	√
Mr Graham W Martinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mrs Rita Brough (Vice Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr Mally Boatman	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
<b>EYRC</b>							
Mr Brent Huntington	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Liz Sargeantson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cllr Nick Coultish	-	-	-	A	√	-	-
Cllr David Jeffreys	√	√	√	√	√	A	√
Cllr Anne Handley	A	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Craig Benson (Clerk)	Clerk
David Blake (Finance Officer)	FO
Janette Parker (Rating Officer)	RO
Catherine Porter (Environment Officer)	EO

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and the new Environment Officer to the Board.

### GOVERNANCE

- 2024.47** Apologies for Absence – Roger Smith.  
**2024.48** Declaration of Interest – None.  
**2024.49** Minutes of Meeting held 18 June 2024 – Minutes considered and proposed as true record by MB and seconded by RB.  
**2024.50** Matters Arising – None.  
**2024.51** FOI/Complaints – None.  
**2024.52** Board Key Performance Indicators – Noted.

### CLERK'S REPORT

- 2024.53** Re-Constitution – Clerk advised that confirmation was still awaited with the Legal Adviser for the EA believing this would be early next year.  
**2024.54** Environment Agency – Pollution Incident – Information noted.

**2024.55** ADA Storm Recovery Fund – Clerk confirmed the monies received as stated in the papers advising that the pump stations which had worked excessively during the storms would now have their pumps lifted and checked and any necessary repairs undertaken. He advised with regards Tranche 2 funding the decision had been deferred due to the recent Elections with a decision unlikely before March 2025. He added that at a recent meeting with Innes Thompson, the ADA Chief Executive, he believed this decision was unlikely before July/August next year. Members would be kept informed.

**Update** – It was announced on 13 November that the Minister has approved Tranche 2 funding for certain schemes. I am pleased to inform the Board that the application to undertake improvement works at Downes Ground PS Outfall (£98k has been approved if we can deliver by the end of March 25) We are in discussions with contractors to see if this is possible.

**2024.56** Drainage Rate System – Clerk advised that support for the current system would end in March 2025. There was an alternative available, but this would mean that the Boards data, which was in a twenty-year old format, would need to be updated. The RO confirmed this would be at a one-off cost to the Board of £1,163. **Discussions took place with the upgrade proposed by MB and seconded by RF. All Members in favour.**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**2024.57** Rate Report – FO advised that all the Rates and Special Levies had now been received.

**2024.58** List of Payments – Approval proposed by MB and seconded by BH.

**2024.59** Audit Review Meeting – FO confirmed this would be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and RB agreed to attend again on behalf of the Board.

**2024.60** External Audit – FO confirmed this had been received with no issues.

**2024.61** Electricity Tender Review – Information noted.

**2024.62** Budget Comparison for Year Ended 31 March 2025 – FO gave members a brief overview advising the Board was exactly where would expect it to be at this time. He pointed out the increased interest received as a result of the investments on the healthy balance held by the Board and noted that although the Drain Maintenance had a negative balance the Contractors had started work but invoices had yet to be received.

**2024.63** Five Year Forecast Estimate – Report discussed with BH querying the Highways England reduced contributions and MB querying the Capital Reserve Account levels. FO confirmed he would investigate. MB also queried when the PWLB would finish. FO advised he would confirm via email to Members.

**Update** – FO provided updated Five-Year Forecast Estimate to Members on 13 November 2024 along with confirmation that PWLB ended in year 2030-31.

## ENGINEERS REPORT

**2024.64** Pumping Stations – Clerk confirmed that the pumps at Orchard Cottage and Hook Clough would be lifted and inspected and that the Engineer had a meeting on site on 15 November to organise access to undertake the works.

**2024.65** Maintenance – Clerk advised that 90% of the flailing had now been completed, reporting that the Contactor had experienced resource issues which were hopefully now resolved.

**2024.66** Clerk advised of an issue at the Rugby Club stating the Contractor had been unable to maintain a section of watercourse. He reported that the Rugby Club had previously been unhappy with arisings being deposited on the bankside. He advised the Board had three options:

Option 1 – to undertake maintenance and deposit arisings as normal and allowed under the LDA.

Option 2 – to undertake maintenance and transport the arisings away

Option 3 – to serve notice on the Rugby Club asking them to undertake the works

Discussions took place with the proposal made by all Members for Officers to approach both the Contractor and Bristows, who had undertaken works at Hook Clough, to provide quotations for Option 2.

**2024.67** Goole Freeport South – The Clerk gave Members a brief outline of the issues surrounding one of the watercourses in the area and advised he and the Engineer had attended a meeting with the developers to discuss. They had re-iterated the 9m easement requirements although the developers were requesting a reduction to 2m and seemed reluctant to change their plans although they had said they would use the Boards model to reassess. The Clerk added that a recent email had been received from the developer seemingly ignoring all that was discussed at the meeting and stating that the Council were pushing as it was an important development and the Board had to reduce the easement requirement. Discussions were held surrounding the possible options and implications concerning the watercourse. DJ advised he and the Engineer were trying to arrange a meeting on site but had been unable to at present. Clerk confirmed that the Engineer had also tried to arrange a meeting with the Council Planning Officer, James Chatfield but again with no success. **Members proposed that the Board's requirements be re-iterated to the Developers in writing and a response chased from the planning department.** Clerk confirmed he would arrange.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**2024.68** Clerk advised there was no new legislation and that the Boards new EO would be undertaking a review of the BAP and would be providing an update on proposals moving forwards at the next meeting.

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT**

**2024.69** Information noted.

#### **REPRESENTATION**

**2024.70** BH requested feedback from the meetings, particularly the Humberhead Levels meeting as he believed the Board paid a fee to attend this. Clerk confirmed that the new EO would be attending and could report back.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2024.71** BH reported that he had just attended a Friends of Oakhill meeting who were concerned about the loss of water voles in the district and had asked if the water levels could be lifted. He was aware the Board had previously refused this but added that those in the Fens had done so to increase biodiversity. He then acknowledged the mink problem in the district and asked if traps had been placed at the pump stations yet. Clerk advised not but that they had been eradicated in southern Lincolnshire with efforts now moving further north.

**2024.72** BH queried if a tour of the district was possible as it had been mentioned previously and thought it would be beneficial. Discussions took place with the request made to add it to the Agenda for the next meeting.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**2024.73** 4 February 2025 and 17 June 2025 at 3.00pm at The Courtyard, Goole.