

# 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 February 2025

Swinefleet Village Hall, Church Lane, Swinefleet, Goole, DN14 8DQ

MEMBER	10.1. 2023	13.6. 2023	9.1. 2024	11.6. 2024	11.2. 2025	
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 Paul Jones – Engineer to the Board	Eng
Mr Mark Joynes – Finance Officer	FO
Catherine Porter – Environmental Officer	EO

### Apologies for Absence

**2025.1** Apologies were received the Board’s Clerk Mr Craig Benson.

### Declaration of Interest

**2025.2** Members 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 11 June 2024

**2025.3** Minutes of the last meeting were circulated with the meeting papers. The minutes were taken as read. **MB proposed and JO seconded the Minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman, all in agreement.**

### Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

**2025.4** There were none.

### CEO’s Report

The Clerk’s report was read and approved.



## Matters Arising

**2025.5 Buffer Strips:** Members were informed DEFRA wish to work with landowners where land lies next to watercourses and said there may be exemptions for IDBs to work on watercourses while landowners continue to receive payments. Eng said Members would be informed as soon as DEFRA indicate what the next steps might be. He also said the Board has a duty to maintain as a statutory authority. He believed rural payment agencies require landowners to apply for derogations or at least highlight the maintained watercourses.

**2025.6 Legislation:** Eng informed Members the Procurement Act 2023 comes into effect in February 2025. The previous legislation was passed in 2015.

**2025.7 Environment Agency Waste Exemptions:** Eng informed members there will be a cost to Goole Fields DDB under Tier 2 of £212.00 plus the application fee of £56.00 to deposit arisings. MD asked why the Environment Agency were entitled to the fee. Eng explained IDBs always had waste exemptions to deposit arisings, but fees had been introduced only recently. No info is available on when the new fees will come into effect.

**2025.8 Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Funding:** Eng informed the Board £5,690 of storm recovery costs had been recovered and it would go some way to offset the Board's sunk costs, if not completely. As part of the application process, an additional £46,000 had been applied for to lift and inspect the pump. DMT asked if the works would exhaust all available funds. Eng said any unspent monies could not be rolled over past the deadline and must be repaid. Eng said he was only made aware in November 2024 the funds would be available. He also said work must be invoiced by 31 March 2025 and the Board must submit a Project Completion Report. Eng also reported another opportunity to bid for Tranche 2B works to be carried out between April 2025 and March 2026. Also, the Board bidded for what was not previously deliverable in the timelines, £408,710 to support the replacement of the discharge pipeline and improve the panels, fit inverters and new sensors. JB said with inverters you can get more output from the same pipe. Eng said the Board also bidded for a mobile pump but overall doesn't know how likely success will be. MB asked about the possibility of partial payment. Eng said no, it's difficult to judge what will get approved and the reasons why. Also, he said officers had separated bids in such a way as to improve the Board's chance of success. The board should receive feedback by 28-Feb-25 regarding funding.

**2025.9 Drainage Rate System:** Eng advised members the Board were seeking to move to the new DRS system. FO informed the Board the cost for the switchover to Goole Fields DDB would be £317.00, and the Board could not realistically decline this given the volume of sensitive information and the cost would have to be borne.

**2025.10 Associated British Ports:** ABP are searching for evidence of responsibility or ownership at this time, and we will continue to work with ABP.

**2025.11 Goole Moors Land Management Group:** DMT confirmed the meeting went ahead and asked if there could be joined-up thinking about the Board taking ownership of cleaning out ditches, not necessarily doing it themselves. He asked if the Board could give permission to Natural England on behalf of multiple landowners. MB also asked if permission can be given as there was significant benefit to the Board. DMT said because it's the other person's land, they may not be able to pay for it. MB said if as so much as a single landowner declines, it will be a problem. Eng said the Board could extend its powers of access to Natural England under the Land Drainage Act to undertake maintenance work, but the Board would have to issue notices to the landowners. DMT said it could become part of the Board's regular maintenance. A discussion followed on the possible impact on ratepayers. The Board were largely in favour and MB asked if a vote should be taken but the Eng said no costs were yet available, and that costings would be needed from contractors.



## Finance Report

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

## Matters Arising

**2025.12 Rating:** Members were pleased to note that all rates and levies for the year ending 31 March 2025 had been collected and the balances were nil.

**2025.13 Internal Audit:** Members noted the minutes of the Audit Review Panel that took place on 9 December 2024.

**2025.14 External Audit:** Members noted that audit for the year ended 31 March 2024 was complete with no matters arising.

**2025.15 Risk Register:** Members reviewed the draft Risk Register prepared on behalf of the Board. FO reminded Members the core version of the document had already been scrutinised at the meeting of the Audit Review Panel mentioned above. JB proposed the Board approve the Register, DMT seconded, and all agreed.

**2025.16 Electricity Procurement:** FO confirmed to Members the Board had entered into a new supply agreement with British Gas and that electricity would be procured through Northern Gas & Power until October 2026. FO informed the Board NPG were looking to extend the contract for a further two years owing to concern about likely future costs re importing liquid natural gas from the United States. However, the proposal had only come in that very day and there was no formal proposal yet, more likely something would be presented at the following meeting. Also, NGP are undertaking a review of kVA analysis with a view to reduce standing charges.

**2025.17 Maintenance Costs for the Year Ending 31 March 2026:** Members considered the likely maintenance costs the Board may incur. They discussed whether the incumbent contractor would be able to continue. FO said the proposed budget which involved an increase from 24p to 27p in the £ would leave the Board with around only £10,650 at the end of the coming financial year, which represented only about three months' operating expenses. FO asked members to discuss and set the rate for the year. Regarding maintenance costs, DMT said the incumbent contractor was effective. MB agreed and pointed out the contractor had recently acquired a significant new item of plant. Members discussed details of maintenance arrangements. Eng said the proposed maintenance cost of £9,500 was under the presumption the incumbent could continue, but other providers had quoted around £13-15k.

**2025.18 District Revaluation:** DMT enquired about the possibility of district revaluation particularly with regard to the windfarms. Eng said the Environment Act had been enacted and the Statutory Instrument was still at draft stage. Eng said they were waiting for the statutory instrument to be passed, and The Board would start the process once this occurred. However, Eng had no further information and would provide a later update.

**UPDATE** – the SI is still awaiting approval hence no more information is available beyond what was discussed at the meeting.

### **2025.19 Estimates for the Year Ending 31 March 2026:**

The Board considered an Estimate of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, copies of which had been previously circulated to members

MB proposed the rate the rate be increased by 3p to 27.00p in the £, DMT seconded and all members agreed.

In accordance with Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act, the Board determined that aggregate annual value of chargeable properties in the district on the aggregate value of



all other land in the district as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 for the financial year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 as follows: -

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a) Aggregate annual value of chargeable properties | £ 28,896  |
| b) Aggregate value of all other land               | £ 111,179 |

It was agreed that for the purpose of defraying costs, charges and expenses etc. incurred by the Board under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, and in pursuance of the Internal Drainage Board (Finance) Regulations 1992, that the Board make a drainage rate for their district in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings and a Special Levy as follows:-

The amount of the Board's expenses to be met by drainage rates was £30,018 by way of an Occupier's rate of 27p in the £ on the basis of the annual value of agricultural land and agricultural buildings in the district.

The amount of the Board's expenses to be met by Special Levies was:-

East Riding of Yorkshire Council	£ 7,802
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The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to seal the rate and the Special Levy on the Local Authority in accordance with the Act and the Finance Regulations.

The Clerk, or their representatives, were authorised to negotiate and carry out proceedings for the recovery of any rates unpaid.

Members agreed that if additional expenditure is required above the agreed budget, it is taken from balance.

**2025.20 Schedule of Payments:** The Board approved for signature by the Chairman a schedule of payments made since the last meeting totalling £19,770.27, of which £10,070.54 were paid by direct debit or approved by the Officers only. DMT asked about electricity costs, suggesting they should have decreased from the previous year. FO said costs had decreased but were still significant. However, cheaper electricity was being procured through Northern Gas & Power. Also, the Board are still members of Woldmarsh although on the lowest tier for membership fees, around £300-400 per year. JB proposed the Board approve the schedule and MD seconded.

### Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report was read and approved.

**2025.21 Engineering Report:** Eng noted that all the matters in the report had already been covered in the previous sections.

### Environmental Report

The Environmental Report circulated with the Meeting Papers was read and approved.

### Matters Arising

**2025.22 Introduction of New Environmental Adviser:** Catherine Porter was introduced to the Board as new Environmental Officer. Members welcomed her on to the Board.

**2025.23 Biodiversity Action Plan:** EO requested any species of interest to look at going forward, e.g. American Mink *Neovison vison*. MD said he saw one at the pump 2-3 years ago. EO asked if anyone had observed Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius* on their land. MB said no, he had not. EO asked if Mink were causing problems. EO said she went to ADA Environment Day and discussed the Mink eradication process in the Fens which had been successful and would be extended to other regions. The Mink were cleared quickly and the Water Vole population recovered without further intervention. MB said he had



never seen a Mink. JB said a local claimed to have shot one Mink 7-8 years ago. EO said she looked at the cost of trappings, £70.00/callout is fairly expensive. DMT said Natural England are involved and EO said she will look into it. Eng will pass on Jullian's contact information.

**2025.24 Legislation:** EO said biodiversity net gain had been recently introduced. There is now a requirement of 10% net gain for major schemes. More good than harm must be done for the environment, e.g. bat boxes, bird boxes, habitat creation and enhancement, etc. JBA Consulting represented the Board at Humber Nature Partnership. DMT asked is there anything we should worry about. EO said she will check.

### Health & Safety Report

The report which was circulated to members was read and noted by Members.

### Any Other Business

**2025.25 Carbon Capture Pipeline:** JB asked if anyone had heard about the carbon capture pipeline, thinking the project will likely be going ahead. JB reported some landowners had been paid. JO said they were looking at surveys. JB asked if any Members have any thoughts re goodwill money we can put towards the pump? Eng said the developer's consultants brought Boards together, setting up meetings with individual Boards, shapefiles had been shared, they will need consent, etc. but no definitive route had been settled on yet. He encouraged landowners to ask about replacement of the pumping station. JB commented they must have lots of money. A long discussion followed. Eng said they were waiting for updates and he will pass on whatever information he can find.

**2025.26 Tree Growth Around Cross Drain:** DMT said self-seeding trees were growing out of the bank near the pumping station. Eng said trees are the riparian owners' responsibility, but the Board can elect to undertake works as a statutory operator during maintenance season.

### Date of next meeting

**2025.27** The meeting was closed at approximately 2:10pm. The suggested date for the next meeting of 10 June 2025 would prove difficult for some members so, officers agreed to email with suggested alternative dates. In any case the venue likely will be Swinefleet Village Hall.

**UPDATE:** Members agreed on 1:00pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025. At Swinefleet Village Hall.

## 1.4 Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

## 1.5 Complaints/FOI requests

There have been no complaints or FOI requests received since the last meeting.

## 1.6 Public Forum