



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
	Miss R Beaumont	Environment Officer

In attendance on behalf of Lee Dickens Ltd

Mr A Needham
Mr D Bullock

Declaration of Interest

2025.1 None.

Apologies for Absence

2025.2 Apologies were received from Mr. C. Day, Mr. J. Barton and Mr. I. Dowson.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2024

2025.3 Minutes approved as true record by NS and seconded CS.

Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

2025.4 None.

Complaints/FOI/EIR Requests

2025.5 None.

Telemetry

2025.6 A presentation was given by Lee Dickens Ltd on the new telemetry system, the equipment being installed and the interface available to Board employees. They concluded by advising that the installation should be complete by the end of the year. Discussions took place after with the Chair thanking them for attending and they then left the meeting.

CLERK REPORT

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

2025.7 Policy – Clerk advised of DEFRA’s study in the Fens on creating buffer strips alongside IDB watercourses. There is an issue that some have been incorporated into stewardship schemes and therefore raises the issue of whether Boards have the right to deposit arisings on these strips and use them for access. DEFRA are reviewing with the potential of rolling out across the country if it’s successful and there is still the mechanism for landowners to get compensation via the scheme with IDBs allowed to do their normal activities. This will mean that IDBs will not have to work round crops and harvest and maintain drains throughout the year which means the Board can be more flexible and efficient. Report expected later in the year.

2025.8 ADA – Storm Recovery Costs – Clerk advised members of the new Fund Tranche 2B that has been made available for capital works to be completed by 31st March 2026. He added that the bid period was now open with submissions needing to be complete by 31st January 2025. He advised that himself and the Eng. had a meeting with EA and DEFRA to discuss why some of the previous applications under Tranche 2 had been refused and to discuss what to submit this time.

2025.9 NS queried within the stewardship schemes if housing estates were being considered. Clerk confirmed not. NS advised that the Council planning committees are insisting were a drain involved that rather than there being several individual parties responsible that this was in a stewardship



scheme. Clerk agreed this was a good idea as had issues with developers not leaving enough room for access and then occupiers not being aware of their responsibilities.

2025.10 Middle River Ancholme Catchment Management Project – Chair said he was disappointed that nothing was reported on the progress of this project and the affect it had for a number of people in attendance. Clerk concurred and advised that the EA had not been given funding to deal with the recent storms and therefore recovery works had to be funded from their existing budget. This meant that several ongoing projects, including this one, had to be put on hold. He reported that Mark Adams was still supportive of the work the Board was undertaking and will support us moving forwards. He is hopeful that this will be raised again later in the year providing they get further funding. CC advised he had several landowners contacting him and asked who they should contact to discuss breaches and overtopping. Clerk stated they should report these to the EA Duty Officer or the Incident Flood Line and that he would provide the contact numbers after the meeting. CC asked if the details could be added to the Information Leaflet issued with the drainage rates. Clerk confirmed that this would be added for the next issue.

2025.11 AG queried with regarding the Waste Exemptions how a site was defined. Clerk confirmed that the whole district was one site.

FINANCE REPORT

2025.12 Rating Report – FO advised the outstanding balance was now £43,771 with instalments of £38,221 and £5,300 with Solicitors.

2025.13 Rate Removal – **Discussions took place with removal proposed by AG and seconded by HW.**

2025.14 Audit – Information noted.

2025.15 Risk Register – **FO took members through the register with approval proposed by NS and seconded by JAn.**

2025.16 Bank Mandate – **All in agreement for Vice Chairman to be added.**

2025.17 Rates & Special Levies for the Year Ending 31 March 2026 – FO took members through the report advising that the current year was tracking in line with the budget set. However, he added that if the storm recovery monies had not been received then only a small surplus equating to a 12% reserve level would be achieved. He then gave a short presentation on electricity usage and the implications on the budget stating that previous electricity costs were between £60-120k however, in light of the recent storm events and increased prices this was now within the range of £125-272k. He advised members that given the Board's current strategy and mandate it would be appropriate to set the budget at the new average electricity cost of £170k in order to reduce the funding gap needed should a worst-case scenario be experienced again and the Board had to utilise its reserve funds. As a result of this he was recommending a 1p increase to the drainage rate. Discussions took place with RH proposing the rate stay the same and seconded by NS. **All Members in favour of the rate remaining at 15.50p.** FO acknowledged the decision but emphasized the potential risk to Members in doing so.

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

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 31st December 2024 for the financial year beginning 1st April 2025 as follows:-

a) Aggregate annual value of chargeable properties	£ 1,804,649
b) Aggregate value of all other land	£ 2,818,241

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 1st April 2025 to 31st 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 £465,009 by way of an Occupier's rate of 15.5p 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:-

North Lincolnshire Council	£ 272,723
West Lindsey District Council	£ 25,044

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 balances.

- 2025.18** Capital Reserve Account – Information noted.
- 2025.19** Five Year Budget Estimate – Information noted.
- 2025.20** Schedule of Payments – **approval proposed by NS and seconded by HW.**

All members thanked the FO for his report.

ENGINEER REPORT

Eng confirmed the report was for information with the following updates on recent events.

- 2025.21** Flooding Incidents – Eng advised Members that 50-58mm of rain had been received in 24 hours which has resulted in the Ancholme overtopping at Owersby and South Kelsey as well as in three locations within Waddingham and Snitterby Carr. He confirmed the EA had been informed but that no additional breaches had been reported. Eng advised that the EA had mobilised two temporary pumps to South Kelsey and that the Waddingham system was currently coping. He added that the Ancholme was now receding and that the Sluice at Ferriby had been altered on Monday and was due to be dropped another foot the following Monday which should help in efforts to remove the water.
- 2025.22** Halton Drain Breach Repair – Eng advised the Contractor had started works prior to Christmas and was currently on site with a temporary pump due tomorrow to help remove additional water so the repair could be undertaken. He advised that one of the pumps at Whitton Carr had been removed for inspection but was due to be reinstalled later this week and that two temporary pumps were also being sent to Whitton Carr this week. He stated that monies from the IDB fund had been utilised to undertake the additional pumping in order to ensure the breach repairs were completed and confirmed that all were planned to be complete by the end of March. He acknowledged that JJa had offered his assistance to support the works at Halton Drain. JJa stated that he appreciated all that had been done but advised that the works should have been completed prior to Christmas and that the recent flooding had exacerbated the problem. Further discussions took place surrounding the timing of works and funding.
- 2025.23** Level of River Ancholme – Discussions took place regarding requests to the EA to drop the level of the River in an effort to reduce the risk of overtopping and flooding with the Chair concluding that a definitive answer was required from the EA as to the notice timescales required. Clerk to contact EA to confirm.
- 2025.24** AG suggested that a strong message was sent to DEFRA regarding the delayed decision for the Storm Recovery funding and that the arbitrary rules to spend funds by the end of March had created bigger, more expensive problems and that lessons should be learned. Clerk to action.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

- 2025.25** Information noted.



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISER REPORT

2025.26 Legislation – EO advised of revised National Planning Policy Framework adding that would not have great impact on the Board as the works undertaken did not require planning.

2025.27 Storm Recovery Works – surveys have been undertaken with evidence found of Water Voles so further surveys are required which will push the works back to March.

2025.28 BAP - EO confirmed currently reviewing the previous BAP and in process of drafting the new one. She asked Members to get in touch if there was anything specific they would like to see moving forwards.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2025.29 MS advised he had been working with the EA to replenish fish stocks in the Ancholme, releasing 7,000 a few weeks ago from the Fish Farm at Calverton.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2025.30 21st May 2025, 5th November 2025

Chair closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.

1.5 Matters arising there from not elsewhere on Agenda

1.6 Complaints/FOI/EIR requests

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