

- 2025.2** Chair welcomed PMA to the Board and Jordan Edge to the meeting, a Graduate recently added to the team working with the Engineer.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

- 2025.3** DF and WF with regards Ravensfleet Pumping Station.

#### **Public Forum**

- 2025.4** No Members of the Public in attendance.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting held 11 November 2024**

- 2025.5** All Members agreed that they were a true and accurate record.

#### **Matters Arising**

- 2025.6** None.

#### **Complaints/FOI Requests**

- 2025.7** None received.

#### **CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk confirmed information was for note with the following added.

- 2025.8** Policy – Clerk brought the bufferstrip study to Members attention as noted in the papers and confirmed he would keep them updated with progress.
- 2025.9** ADA Storm Recovery Costs – Clerk confirmed that Tranche 2b bids had been submitted on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, adding that a decision was expected by the end of March with works to be completed before March 2026. He thanked the Eng for his work on the submissions.

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

- 2025.10** Rate Report – RO advised a revised outstanding balance of £8,074 of which £7,731 related to instalment payments.
- 2025.11** Proposed Rate Removal – RO advised of current debt outstanding and that attempts to trace the ratepayer had been unsuccessful but that the land was now held by a new owner. Discussions took place with Chair, TE and PM requesting further information on land and occupier to see if they could assist with the trace.
- 2025.12** Audit Review Meeting – Information noted.
- 2025.13** Risk Register – Clerk took Members through and discussions then ensued with the conclusion that Objective 6 be amended to Lack of Understanding and reduced to amber status. **Subject to the amendments being made, all Members approved.**
- 2025.14** Estimates, Rates & Special Levies for the Year Ending 31 March 2026 – Clerk took members through the figures for the current year confirming that the Board would carry forward a figure of £255,500 which was an increase on the budgeted amount. He then discussed the proposed budget for next year bringing members attention to the pumping station costs set at £225,000 but stated that £180,000 of that related to electricity and that this figure had been used as the new average. However, there was no guarantee that it would be enough to cover the potential costs. Overall, he confirmed that a slight deficit would be made but with the balance brought forward the reserve target would increase to just under the 40% level set by the Board. As a result of the proposed budget the FO was of the opinion the rate did not need to be increased unless the Board wished to add additional funds for the works at Burringham Reservoir or increase the amount set

aside for electricity costs. **Discussions took place between Members with BJ proposing the rate be held at 10.75p, seconded by CB with all Members in favour.**

### **Expenditure Budget Comparison for the year Ending 31 March 2026**

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	£ 3,578,751
b) Aggregate value of all other land	£ 1,558,985

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 2015 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 £167,591 by way of an Occupier's rate of 10.75p 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: -

West Lindsey District Council	£ 70,638
North Lincolnshire Council	£314,077

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.

**2025.15** New Works & Plant Account – Information noted.

**2025.16** Ten Year Budget Estimate – Information noted.

**2025.17** Schedule of Payments – Approval proposed by IF and seconded by BJ.

**2025.18** Electricity – Clerk advised that the current provider anticipated electricity costs were going to increase significantly and was therefore recommending fixing the contract for a further two years. Discussions took place with the decision to stay with the current two-year contract the Board had recently entered and review again at the next meeting.

### **ENGINEERS REPORT**

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

**2025.19** Ravensfleet Pumping Station – Eng confirmed that Ravensfleet road had been reopened last week and that there had been no issues with the asbestos Anglian Water main. He added that speed restrictions would now be put in place. WF advised that the signage had been erected today. With regards the construction works Eng advised that concrete works would be starting shortly with completion of the project still anticipated for September/October 2025.



**2025.20** Telemetry – Eng advised that Lee Dickins had given their apologies as were unable to attend to give a presentation. He added that installation was expected to be complete by April and that hopefully Lee Dickins would be able to attend the June meeting to present what had been installed and how it could be utilised. He also added that Lee Dickins had committed to an R&D project with JBA Consulting which is focusing on flood forecasting within individual catchments.

**2025.21** Burringham Reservoir – Eng advised members of the information in the papers adding that cameras had now been deployed on site to monitor badger movements with quotations being obtained for a topographic survey of the banks and badger sets as well as a ground penetrating radar survey to help identify the burrows within the banks. He stated that as the reservoir was Board owned and it was a High Risk reservoir under the Reservoir Act it was a measure in the interests of safety that the Board had to attend to in line with the legislation. He advised that advice would be sought from Ecologists and the Reservoir Engineer once surveys had been completed to understand what works may be required. He referred to the £30,000 that had been added to the current budget and advised that the survey costs alone could reach £22,000. He then added that a submission had been made under the IDB Fund Tranche 2b for £100,000 towards the project.

**2025.22** New IDB Fund Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement – Eng confirmed that the pump lifts and bank repairs either had been completed or would be by the end of March. It was also hoped that the following additional works would be complete by March and these were the overspill at Laughton Highland, Lea Marshes watercourse reconditioning, Invertors fitted at all pump stations and actuators installed at Laughton Highland drain and Burringham. He advised that further submissions had been made under Tranche 2b regarding Crosby Soakmere daylighting, to resolve the sinkholes and culvert issues at Wharton Road, Burringham Reservoir as discussed, Telemetry at the Pump stations as the Board did not receive any Grant in Aid or Local Levy funds and also for weedscreen cleaners at Jenny Hurn and Susworth pump stations.

**2025.23** Watercourse Maintenance – Eng advised the Contractor had confirmed that works should be complete in the Scunthorpe area this week with works in Gainsborough complete by 17<sup>th</sup> February. He added that the Contractor had brought in Agency operators for this year and that they had taken on a further three operators themselves with the intention to complete next years work by the end of November. Discussions took place with the acknowledgement that they needed greater scrutiny whilst they were working. BJ requested a schedule of works be provided by the Contractor so the Board could monitor progress.

**2025.24** River Eau, Scotter – LR requested an update on the situation as Scotter Parish Council did have £200,000 to support the works which the Environment Agency subsequently would not allow to proceed. Eng advised that the Board was bound by the EA and their approval was needed to undertake any works. PMA advised he had undertaken works with the necessary permits but also notified members of the issues experienced. Discussions took place with LR asking if the Eng, PMA and Chair had any objections to being involved with further discussions to assist in finding a resolution. All agreed to be involved.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

**2025.25** EO advised she was currently reviewing the previous BAP and drafting a new version for the next 5 years and requested Members let her know if there was anything they particularly wanted to focus on moving forwards.

**2025.26** EO advised that surveys had been undertaken as part of the Storm Recovery funds and that cameras had been installed on Friday at Burringham Reservoir to monitor the situation with regards the Badgers.

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

**2025.27** Board Operations Accidents & Incidents – Clerk gave brief overview of incident relating to Shooting Range and confirmed that investigations were being undertaken so measures could be put in place to ensure there was no recurrence.



## **REPRESENTATION**

**2025.28** Information noted.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2025.29** Chair thanked JBA Officers for all their efforts with regards the Tranche 1, 2 & 2b bid submissions and the successful receipt of funds, commending them on a fantastic job and that the Board appreciated everything they had done.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**2025.30** 2 June 2025, 10 November 2025

Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

## **1.5 Matters arising not discussed elsewhere.**

## **1.6 Complaints/FOI requests**

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