

MINUTES OF THE KYLE & UPPER OUSE IDB MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 23rd JUNE 2025
AT THE GALTRES CENTRE, EASINGWOLD

- 116 **Present** Mr R Shedden (Chair), Mr A Boddy, Mr I Galtrey, Mr R Pennock,
Mr G Robinson, Mr R Spilman, Cllr A Hook, Mr J Corden,
Cllr N Knapton
- In attendance - Mr N Everard (Clerk of the Board)
Mr P Jones (Consulting Engineer)
Mrs P Mullen (Skelton Parish Council)
- 117 **Apologies** None
- 118 **Declaration of Interest** Mr G Robinson declared an interest in respect of the completed works at Beningbrough.
- 119 **Minutes** The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2025 were approved and signed subject to noting the attendance of Mr J Corden at the meeting.
- 120 **Consulting Engineers Report** **Ordinary Watercourse Maintenance**
- A maintenance progress meeting was held on 24th February agreeing outstanding works for the 2024/25 maintenance season with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, employees and contractor.
- Contractor maintenance since the last meeting has been focused around Brafferton Woods, River Kyle, Alne Brickworks areas with positive verbal feedback from a local resident.
- Contractor has completed 31,243m predominantly flailing including 3,573m desilting and support flailing for the employee.
- Employees including the new flail mower / tractor operator have been focused on piling works, maintenance downstream of Wigginton including nesting bird survey support, Thormanby area and liaison with owner occupiers regarding obstructions to flow (west of Easingwold golf course) and improving access to maintain watercourses (Easingwold allotments).
- The Asset Manager has been supporting with flap valve inspections at Tollerton Ings, access liaison for Easingwold allotments, obstructions to flow west of Easingwold golf course, and continues to pursue the EA/CRT regarding the Linton-on-Ouse (018) Access Culvert (collapsing stone headwall; likely future obstruction to flow).
- A pre-start maintenance meeting is to be held before mid-July for the 2025/26 maintenance season.

New IDB Fund

All approved Works as previously reported (and outlined below) have been delivered under-budget totalling £ funded through the National EA / DEFRA / Treasury bespoke fund.

Beningbrough 026+026A replacement Scope of Works

- 860 metres 600mm diameter pipe to replace the 2x450mm diameter and 1no.600mm pipes currently installed.
- 160mm diameter interceptor pipe west of the new 600mm dia. pipe to intercept all existing field under-drainage.
- 160mm diameter interceptor pipe east of the new pipe (provisional)
- Replacement inlet / outlet headwalls with silt traps and removable grating.
- Watercourse clearance downstream of the pipe, circa 100 metres downstream of pipe outlet as well as scour protection downstream
- CCTV of existing pipeline north towards Moor Lane; completed and under review
- Services Searches, Welfare, Compound, temporary hard standing
- Temp. hard standing; approx. 15m west of existing hedgeline, 20m east

DEFRA Investment Reform

Defra has launched its Investment Reform consultation announced by Minister Hardy at Flood & Coast on 3rd June which proposes major updates to DEFRA's Partnership Funding Policy and seeks views on a simplified approach to funding set out as:

- Contribution-Free Allowance: First £3 million of all FCERM projects eligible for full GiA funding
- Flat Rate of Funding: 90% GiA funding eligibility for all FCERM project costs above £3 million
- FCERM asset refurbishment projects are eligible to be fully GiA funded

The consultation closes on 29th July and we will review and respond on behalf of the Board.

	Expected outcomes of our proposed approach	Expected outcomes under the current Partnership Funding approach
Residential properties benefitting	105,000	70,000
Non-residential properties benefitting	15,500	11,500
Benefit cost ratio	7.0	6.5
Spend in the 20% most deprived communities	£200 million	£160 million
External (non-government) contributions needed (%)	4%	20%
Natural flood management schemes that would struggle to secure necessary external contributions (%)	0%	91%
Capital maintenance projects that would struggle to secure necessary external contributions (%)	5%	37%

We would recommend support for the new Funding Policy as well as highlighting improvements to be considered in relation to business case, timescales for approval and a move to a similar process to that of the New IDB Fund.

Planning Applications

Planning applications have been reviewed on a weekly basis and 14 have received comment between 21st January and 16th June 2025 on behalf of the Board, as shown at the end of this report.

Applications may not result in a need for IDB consent, but should an applicant wish to discharge to a watercourse or work within 7 metres of a watercourse they are informed of the Boards Consent requirements.

Land Drainage Act 1991 Sections 23 & 66 Consents

One consent has been provided on behalf of the Board between 21st January and 16th June 2025.

One consent application is under review by the Asset Manager who is in discussions with the Developers off Leasmires regarding the existing culvert downstream of the development. Although the development is due to restrict flows into the watercourse and there are no plans for direct work impacting the existing downstream culvert, we are seeking their agreement to CCTV the pipeline to ensure any defects are identified and potentially remediated by the developers. If no agreement is reached the requirement to CCTV the culvert downstream will be placed as a condition of any discharge consent.

121 Health & Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the Health & Safety inspection was due. The Direct labour are undertaking training courses prior to the start of the maintenance season.

- 122 **Risk Management/
Strategy & Policy** The Clerk confirmed that the Policy would be updated on completion of the Health & Safety inspection.
- A meeting is to be scheduled with insurance brokers prior to the renewal date and the Clerk updated members on progress regarding DRS365.
- 123 **Audit** The internal audit report for the financial year ended 31st March 2025 had three matters to be brought to the attention of the Board. Firstly is regard to the extension of the previous year's submission date due to ill health and cancellation of the meeting. Secondly, the level of rate arrears, the Clerk confirmed that rate arrears had increased and was currently obtaining quotations for approval by the Finance Committee to seek recovery of the arrears. Thirdly with regard to publication of information, specifically regarding minutes on the Boards website. Although, not a legal requirement but it was considered best practice, and the Clerk would review the website which is operated by JBA Consulting Engineers.
- Annual Government and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31st March 2025: -
- a) Effectiveness of the system and internal control – the Board approved the internal control review for the year ended 31st March 2025.
 - b) Annual Government Statement – the Board approved the Annual Government Statement (Section 1 of the AGAR) for the year ended 31st March 2025.
 - c) Accounting Statement – the Board considered and approved the Accounting Statement (Section 2 of the AGAR) for the year ended 31st March 2025.
- 124 **Appointed Members** The Clerk advised that North Yorkshire Council are only advising Boards of changes to appointed members i.e. no annual update. City of York Council had confirmed the appointment of Cllr A Hook and Mr M Henderson leaving 7 vacancies. The Clerk had contacted the City of York Council about nomination for Parish Councillors and will follow this matter up.
- 125 **Direct Labour** Following a review of the workflow, as previously mentioned when discussing the budget, interviews had been undertaken and a flail operator appointed ready for the forthcoming maintenance season. As a result of this Mr Banks, due to his knowledge of the District, is to be appointed Foreman with the intention that the new employee will fill that role in the future.
- 126 **JCB & Excavator Replacement** Quotations had been received from T C Harrison JCB for a 5CX Pro for a net cost of £. A New Holland B115D Backhoe for a net cost of £ and a Komatsu Backhoe WB97S-8 for a net cost of £. Following discussions with the operator and to reduce downtime the Finance Committee approved the purchase of the 5CX Pro, the Board ratified that decision.

- 127 **Consultations** The Clerk reported on consultations received from City of York Council in respect of the Local Risk Flood Management Strategy and from North & North Yorkshire Partnership Working With Water.
- 128 **Accounts** Accounts for Payment Schedule numbers 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 were
For Payment approved in the sums of £48,860.80, £12,676.40, £192,962.48, £85,966.63 and £481,075.67 respectively.
- 129 **Next Meeting** The Clerk reported that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 1st December 2025 at 2.00pm at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold.

Mr R C Shedden..... **Chairman**

01/12/25.....**Date**