

1. Governance

1.1 Apologies for Absence

1.2 Declaration of Interest

Board Members are advised to declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item on the Agenda.

1.3 Minutes of the Meeting Held 13 January 2026

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

MEMBER	13.6. 2023	9.1. 2024	11.6. 2024	11.2. 2025	20.5. 2025	13.1. 2006
Martin Belton (MB) – <i>Chair</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Dougherty (MD)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Douglas McTaggart (DMT)	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
John Barker (JB) – <i>Vice Chair</i>	✓	A	✓	✓	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 and Acting Clerk Eng
Mr Mark Joynes – Finance Officer FO

Introduction & Welcomes

2026.1 Eng welcomed the members and led the meeting until such time as a Charman could be duly elected.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2026.2 JB proposed Mr Martin Belton to continue in his role as Chairman, JO seconded and all members were in agreement. MB was duly elected Chairman and Eng immediately passed over control of the meeting to him at that point.

2026.3 MD proposed Mr John Barker to continue in his role as Vice-Chairman, DMT seconded and all members were in agreement. JB was duly re-elected to the role of Vice-Chairman.

Apologies for Absence

2026.4 Apologies were received from the Clerk Craig Benson and the Board's Environmental Officer Catherine Porter.

Declaration of Interest

2026.5 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 20 May 2025

2026.6 Minutes of the last meeting were circulated with the meeting papers. The minutes were taken as read. **MB proposed and DMT seconded the Minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman, all in agreement.**

Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

2026.7 There were none.

CEO's Report

The Clerk's report was read and approved.

Matters Arising

2026.8 Policy: Eng explained that following the new Data Use and Access Act 2025 the Board's GDPR policies had been amended and required approval. He explained the necessity for such policies and the protections they offer. DMT asked what the main changes were. FO explained there were some additional protections for public bodies, and some adjustments regarding artificial intelligence and automatic decision making. **JB proposed the Board approved the amended policies, MB seconded and all were in agreement.**

2026.9 Legislation: Eng discussed the new consultation from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and informed the board the asset manager is currently reviewing the proposal. The Board will be informed if there is any impact on their activities.

2026.10 Association of Drainage Authorities: Eng informed Members he had attended the ADA Flood & Water Conference, and it had proved to be a good opportunity to discuss matters with DEFRA ministers, other IDBs and the Environment Agency. JB asked if DEFRA were still pushing to amalgamate IDBs. Eng responded that they were not, but they would still work with Boards that wish to do so.

2026.11 Electricity Standing Charges: Eng reported that ADA are working on behalf of all IDBs to obtain an extension/reduction and were 'fighting their corner'. The Board had provided all the information ADA had requested.

2026.12 Associated British Ports: Eng informed Members an ABP officer had been invited to the meeting but had not attended. Eng said Officers will continue to pursue ABP.

2026.13 Goole Moors Land Management Group: Eng asked MB if he would be agreeable to attend the coming meeting on 28 January 2026 and MB confirmed he would do so.

2026.14 Election Year: Eng reminded members they had all been re-elected following the 2025 election.

Finance Report

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

Matters Arising

2026.15 Rating: FO reminded members that all rates and levies for the year ending 31 March 2026 had been collected and the closing balance was nil.

2026.16 Audit Review Meeting: Members noted the information in the report. Members also considered the Independence of the Internal Auditor, and no conflicts were known to exist. Members also considered scope of the 2025/26 Internal Audit and were happy with the Audit Panel's suggestions.



2026.17 Contractor Payments: The Board discussed the panel's remarks on the unbilled works that took place in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 years. MB said he had asked the contractor to submit his invoices on multiple occasions over recent months. The Board considered whether they could draft invoices on the contractor's behalf. FO said possibly, but the information on which drains had been maintained would be needed.

2026.18 External Audit: Members noted that audit for the year ended 31 March 2025 was complete with no matters arising.

2026.19 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. DMT asked if any risks had been reassessed regarding the mobile pump acquisitions. Eng stated this was covered under objective 1 (flood protection – risk of asset failure) and FO said this was already scored as high risk, but that additional insurance had been purchased to mitigate this. **MB proposed the Board approve the Register, MD seconded, and all agreed.**

2026.20 Estimates for the Year Ending 31 March 2027: The Board considered an Estimate of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2027, copies of which had been previously circulated to members. FO said that should the Board remain at 27p the reserves at the year-end would be forecast as low as £10,800. JB asked if members were prepared to increase the rate in the £ from 27p to 30p. MB said all costs had increased and it would be necessary to raise the rate. The board also discussed the possibility of hiring the new pump to other drainage boards should it not be needed by this Board. **JB proposed the Board increase the costs as suggested, MB seconded and all were in agreement.**

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 2025 for the financial year beginning 1st April 2026 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 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027, 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 £33,354 by way of an Occupier's rate of 30.0p 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	£8,669
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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 balances.



2026.21 Insurance Costs: FO informed members of the additional insurance costs in relation to the new pumps. The contractors combined policy which the Board did not previously have had been purchased, but the Board have the option to cancel it and recover most of the costs. The new assets were valued at around £150,000 and the insurance premium whilst expensive represented only about 1% of this. DMT asked what would be covered if the Board did not have the policy. FO said the Board would have no recourse to replace the assets if they were stolen or destroyed. Eng reminded the Board the pump has tracking facilities. After a long discussion on practical arrangements around use of the assets, the Board agreed to retain the policy.

2026.22 Schedule of Payments: The Board approved for signature by the Chairman a schedule of payments made since the last meeting totalling £13,490.01, of which £2,771.31 were paid by direct debit or approved by the Officers only. DMT enquired about the use of red diesel. Eng said IDBs can still use it although the EA cannot. **MB proposed the Board approve the schedule of payments and DMT seconded.**

2026.23 Five-Year Budget Estimate: The Board noted the information in the report.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report was read and approved.

2026.24 Asset Management System (AMS): Eng provided an outline of the new AMS and a report is to be issued to the Board providing further details and breakdown of cost.

2026.25 Storm Recovery Fund: Eng noted as covered earlier in the meeting. MB confirmed all equipment was delivered except the trailer. Eng said Hidrostral were due to visit site. MB asked how long the warrantee would last. Eng was will seek confirmation. DMT asked if any other Boards have a hydraulic recoil. Eng said they were all manual at present.. Eng asked members to obtain approximate costs for further consideration. MB suggested Jones Engineering, Mr Mark Clayton. DMT said he would approach them and mentioned Veg Craft would be an alternative.

2026.26 Planning, Pre-Application and Consents: The information was noted.

Environmental Report

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

Matters Arising

2026.27 Legislation: Eng said the Environmental Officer Catherine Porter passed on her apologies and the content of the report was for noting. Eng said that the officer should be notified if any invasive species are discovered. JB asked if anything other than Japanese Knotweed had been reported. Eng confirmed there were several species found. The Board discussed the difficulties handling Japanese knotweed in particular.

2026.28 Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030: Copies of the report had been distributed to members along with meeting papers. Eng said the Board should move for approval of the new BAP 2025-2030 prepared by the Board's Environmental Officer Catherine Porter. Eng said it sets out to ensure the Board's maintenance activities don't impact on protected species, and to ensure opportunities for conservation and improvement. Any specific targets and actions would be incorporated into existing maintenance arrangements and any future capital works. Eng also said any costs arising from the implementation the Environmental Officer would review and put forward for approval. The first potential BAP implementation cost is to be presented at the summer 2026 meeting. Eng also mentioned the EA offer of free coir matting for any banks with bare earth showing. Although free, the Board may have to install it themselves. All members agreed the Board should approve the BAP.



2026.29 Other Environmental Matters: Eng reported the Environmental Officer wanted the Board to note the Waterlife Recovery Trust had done much mink trapping on Thorne Moors successfully. Also, the same officer would be attending ADA Environment Day on behalf of the Board.

Health & Safety Report

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

Ant Other Business

2026.30 Historic Documents: MD said former Clerk Charles Clegg had cleared out their archives prior to a proposed merger and had discovered some old rates books of the Boards from the 1950s. FO said the documents would be presented to the Clerk & Rating Officer for their inspection.

2026.31 Maintenance Contractor: The Board considered the current contractor arrangements and were of the opinion the work carried out was of a high standard.

Date of next meeting

2026.32 The meeting was closed at approximately 2:40pm. The date for the next meeting was agreed as 19 May 2026, and the venue will again be 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