

# 1. Governance

**Recommendation:**

- Note the information contained in this report

## 1.1 Apologies for Absence

## 1.2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, Part 2 Members Interests, Members must remove themselves from the discussion or determination of matters in which they have a financial interest.

In matters where Members have a non-financial interest, they should not participate in the discussion or determination of a matter where the interest might suggest a danger of bias.

## 1.3 Public Forum

## 1.4 Minutes of the Meeting held 2 February 2026

| MEMBER                        | 5.2.<br>2024 | 3.6.<br>2024 | 11.11.<br>2024 | 3.2.<br>2025 | 2.6.<br>2025 | 10.11.<br>2025 | 2.2.<br>2026 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| David Barratt DB              | A            | √            | Resigned       |              |              |                |              |
| Adrian Black AB               | √            | √            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Chris Black CB                | √            | √            | √              | √            | A            | √              | √            |
| Karen Carless KC              |              |              |                |              |              | New √          | √            |
| John Davison JD               |              |              | New √          | √            | A            | √              | -            |
| Tony Ellerby TE               | √            | A            | A              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Ian Fleetwood IF              | √            | √            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| David Forington DF            | √            | √            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Will Forington WF             | √            | A            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Trevor Foster TF              | A            | -            | √              | √            | √            | √              | A            |
| Samuel Godfrey SG             | -            | √            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Benjamin Jackson BJ           | A            | √            | A              | √            | √            | √              | A            |
| Robert Kissaglis RK           | A            | -            | √              | √            | A            | A              | Resigned     |
| Janet Longcake JL             | -            | √            | √              | √            | -            | √              | √            |
| Phil Marris PMA               |              |              |                | New √        | √            | A              | √            |
| Paul Metheringham PM          | √            | √            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Lesley Rollings LR            | √            | -            | √              | √            | A            | -              | -            |
| Ralph Ogg - <b>Vice Chair</b> | √            | √            | A              | A            | -            | A              | √            |
| Neil Poole - <b>Chair</b>     | √            | √            | √              | √            | √            | √              | √            |
| Helen Rowson HR               | √            | √            | -              | √            | A            | √              | A            |
| George Strawson GS            | √            | √            | √              | A            | A            | √              | √            |

**In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting, Clerk, Engineer and Environmental Officer:**

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Craig Benson (Clerk)            | Clerk |
| Paul Jones (Engineer)           | Eng   |
| David Blake (Finance Officer)   | FO    |
| Janette Parker (Rating Officer) | RTO   |

**In attendance on behalf of the Environment Agency**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Sarah Hawkings - Asset Performance Team Leader (North) | SH |
| Nathan Sutton - Asset Management Lead (North)          | NS |



### Apologies for Absence

**2026.1** Apologies were received from Mr B. Jackson, Mr R. Kissaglis, Mrs H. Rowson and Mr T. Foster.

### Declarations of Interest

**2026.2** DF and WF declared an interest in Ravensfleet.

### Minutes of the Meeting held 10 November 2025

**2026.3** All Members agreed that they were a true and accurate record.

### Matters Arising

**2026.4** None.

### Complaints/FOI Requests

**2026.5** None received.

### CLERKS REPORT

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

**2026.6** Clerk advised Members that Robert Kissaglis had today tendered his resignation so there was now a vacancy on the Board.

**2026.7** Policy – **Clerk advised Members on the changes to the GDPR Policies with approval proposed by Chair and seconded by TE with All in favour.**

**2026.8** Electricity Standing Charges – Information noted.

Mrs J Longcake entered the meeting.

**2026.9** Ravensfleet PS Scheme - Information noted.

**2026.10** Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB and Ancholme IDB – Clerk confirmed that a document was being produced for the steering group to ratify and which would be presented to Members at the June meeting.

**2026.11** Clerk introduced Sarah Hawkings in attendance from the EA and advised that an update from them would be provided when her colleague arrived. He added that it was intended that this would now be a regular occurrence at future meetings.

### FINANCE REPORT

**2026.12** Rate Report – RO confirmed revised balance of £2,863 of which £1,638 related to instalments and £480 was with Solicitors.

**2026.13** Rate Removals – RO advised area of land now transferred to Special Levy with arrears of £36.23 requiring approval to remove. **All Members agreed to removal.** RO then advised of an additional amount of £398.75 where attempts to trace the owners had been unsuccessful but the land was now rated elsewhere. **All Members agreed to removal.**

**2026.14** Audit – Information noted.

**2026.15** Risk Register – **FO took Members through and All Members agreed approval.**

**2026.16** Rates & Special Levies for the Year Ending 31 March 2027 – FO took Members through the information in the additional supplement distributed concluding that the current year would be in line with budget resulting in a reserve level of 36%, adding that this was within the parameters of 35 to 40% agreed by the Board. FO then discussed the budget for the next year advising that a deficit was forecast based on the rate remaining the same which would be offset by reserves and therefore reducing them to 21%. **Discussions took place with WF proposing a 1p increase, DF seconding and All Members in agreement to set the rate at 11.75p.**

**UPDATE: Following a poll held after the meeting due to confusion with the % increase quoted in the papers the consensus agreed by Members was that the rate be increased by 0.5p to 11.25p instead of the original proposal. (11 votes to 5)**

**Expenditure Budget Comparison 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.

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      £ 3,601,222
- b) Aggregate value of all other land                              £ 1,558,648

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 £175,348 by way of an Occupier's rate of 11.25p 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    | £ 331,214 |
| West Lindsey District Council | £ 73,924  |

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.

**2026.17** Ten Year Budget Estimate – Information noted.

**2026.18** Schedule of Payments – **Approval proposed by AB and seconded by DF with All Members in agreement.**

#### **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

**2026.19** SH and NS gave a brief update on maintenance plans for the next year. Discussions took place around several issues with NS adding that if anyone had concerns regarding a particular area to get in touch and this could then be considered. Eng advised Members of the PSCA works planned to the Laughton Highland flap valves/penstocks adding that consideration was also being made to agree a PSCA regarding Burringham Outfall.

#### **ENGINEERS REPORT**

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

**2026.20** Ravensfleet Pumping Station – Eng advised of the issues with NPG but stated they were on site undertaking works and the delays were with Solicitors. He added that the current update from NPG was that the physical assets would be complete in February but there was no date yet regarding the legal aspects however, he reported that himself and the Clerk had a meeting on Wednesday with the Board Solicitors, Landowners Solicitors and NPG solicitors to try move things forward. In view of the uncertainty with NPG Eng advised that the Board had to provide protection to 579 properties by the end of March 2026 and as a result a decision was taken to purchase a temporary generator through the project. He confirmed this was on site and set up to run the pumps. Final works had to be completed to the flap valves on the Trent and it was expected that the station would be running on the temporary generator during week commencing 23 February. Eng advised that as a result of the above a decision



had to be made to own the land the substation would occupy and the Board were to pay all legal fees which would ultimately come from the fund. He added that additional variation funding had been requested to cover the electrical costs at c.£300,000 as a result of the delays by NPG. Eng concluded with the request to the Board that agreement was needed to ratify the decision to own the land. **Chair proposed approval with TE seconding and All Members in agreement.**

**2026.21** Asset Management System – Eng advised that details were being finalised and a report would be issued to Members in due course.

**2026.22** Telemetry – Information noted.

#### **IDB Fund – Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement.**

**2026.23** Wharton Road -.Eng advised that he had been on site the previous week with the contractor and works were still set for completion at the end of March with all approvals and permits in place. However, an asbestos Anglian Water main has been found and so are currently trying to work to alter the designs but are not expecting any major delays as a result.

**2026.24** Burringham Habitat Management and Bank Repairs – Eng confirmed to Members that to date an alternative badger sett had been created however, a licence was required from Natural England to undertake surveys to the old sett prior to this being destroyed. He advised that Natural England had failed to determine this within their required timescale of 28 days and as a result the old setts could not be destroyed until June/July. This meant additional costs of £160,000 to complete the works. Eng advised that the contractor had purchased as much material for this as possible prior to the March deadline and they were going to raise with the IDB fund to try and establish an extension for the funds to be covered. However, if this was unsuccessful, the Board would be liable as they owned the reservoir.

**2026.25** Mobile Pump Assets – Eng added that the pump and equipment had been delivered and transfer of ownership would be made from AIDB but that Board approval was sought to accept the transfer. **All Members in agreement.**

**2026.26** Crosby Soakmere – Eng confirmed that a Business Case had been submitted at a cost of £10,000, as agreed with the Chair, to access a potential £500,000 of funding to complete the works. He added that a decision was currently awaited from the EA. Eng advised that ratification was required from the Board to the Chair decision to pursue the business case. **All Members approved.**

**2026.27** Maintained Ordinary Watercourses – Discussions were held on the current Contractors and the need to source someone to flail the Gainsborough district moving forwards. **All Members agreed that the Contract should go out to tender for the next season. Eng to arrange.**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**2026.28** Information noted.

#### **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT**

**2026.29** Information noted.

#### **REPRESENTATION**

**2026.30** Information noted.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2026.31** Clerk advised Members of the Board Operative's upcoming retirement confirming that a gift from the Board would be purchased.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**2026.32** 1 June 2026 and 9 November 2026 at Messingham Community Hub

Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

**UPDATE** – At the request of the Chairman the summer 2026 meeting date was later changed to *18 May 2026*. The venue will remain the same.



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

## **1.6 Complaints/FOI requests**

The Board have received no complaints since the last meeting but had received on FOI request for information on the Boards assets. The Clerk responded to this request.