Ancholme
Internal Drainage Board

1. Governance

1.1 Declaration of Interest

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

1.2 Apologies for Absence

1.3 Public Forum

1.4 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2026

Member	6.11. 2024	8.1. 2025	21.5. 2025	5.11. 2025	7.1. 2026	20.5. 2026
Mr R Borrill – Chair	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr B Jackson – Vice Chair	√	√	A	√	√	√
Mr J Akrill JA	√	√	√	√	A	√
Mr J Anyan JAn	√	√	√	√	A	√
Mr J Barton JB	-	A	√	√	√	√
Mr K Bates KB	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr S Bunney SB	√	√	√	A	√	√
Mr C Chappell CC	New √	√	√	√	√	√
Mr C Day CD	A	A	A	√	A - Retired	
Mrs I Day-Russell IDR						New √
Mr R Douglas RD	A	-	-	A	√	√
Mr I Dowson ID	√	A	√	A	√	√
Mr J Evison JE	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr T Foster TF	A	√	√	A	A	√
Mr D Garritt DG	-	-	-	-	A	-
Mr A Godfrey AG	A	√	√	√	√	√
Mr R Herring RH	A	√	A	√	√	√
Mr R Holloway Rho	-	-		√	A	-
Mrs J Jackson JJ	A	√	A	√	A	A
Mr J James JJa	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mrs H Rowson HR	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr C Sherwood CS	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr N Sherwood NS	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr M Storey MS	A	√	√	-	√	√
Mr W Strawson WS	√	√	A	√	√	√
Mr T Sutton-Nelthorpe TSN	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr H Williams HW	A	√	√	-	A	√

Ancholme
Internal Drainage Board

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
	Mr J Edge	Graduate

The Chair welcomed new Member India Day-Russell to the Board and introduced Jordan Edge, a Graduate with JBA, who had produced the Asset Management Report.

Declaration of Interest

2026.24 Clerk in Items 2.6 and 4.1.1. along with BJ, HR. and TF in item 2.7 as they were also Members of the ~~Ancholme IDB~~. SCUNTHORPE & GAINSBOROUGH WMB

Apologies for Absence

2026.25 Apologies were received from Mrs J Jackson.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2026

2026.26 **Minutes approved as true record by AG and seconded by BJ.**

Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

2026.27 None.

Complaints/FOI/EIR Requests

2026.28 Information noted as stated in papers.

CLERK REPORT

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

2026.29 Environment Agency – Clerk gave an update on behalf of the EA advising that with regards the Middle Ancholme Catchment Partnership the EA had confirmed that a new contract had been instigated with ARUP, the fluvial model was being updated, utilising the Board's model. They had broken the catchment into 18 flood compartments to understand how it behaved during periods of flooding and they were currently verifying the data against recent incidents. He added that they were also looking at the best way to temporarily store water in the catchment and to identify options to adjust the exiting drainage network and flood defences accordingly. The new DEFRA flood policy has gone under a recent revision so any refurbishment schemes under £3 million likely to be fully funded if successful in getting on the list. This was good news for the Board as most of the pump stations would just need refurbishing so if can get on the list then it would mean there will be no cost to the Board. If any costs for new assets are over that threshold, then the Board would be asked to contribute 10%. Clerk then advised that the Partnership would also be looking to use the new FCERM fund which has been opened to many others as they did not receive their full funding request for 2026-2027 but the allocation they did get has allowed them to move the project forward and are hoping to complete the outline business case by Spring 2027.

2026.30 Ancholme IDB and Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB – Clerk gave a brief overview of the report supplied with the papers. Discussions then took place with RH asking from a ratepayer view what the savings would be for the Board. Clerk admitted that there would be no initial savings, the differential rates would remain but once the Board had extended to the full catchment, the likelihood was the drainage rate would reduce but there would be a significant increase to the Councils levy. RH queried if there were any definite figures yet. Clerk confirmed not as there was a new rating methodology currently going through DEFRA awaiting Ministerial approval which would give the Board the ability to rate on land outside their district so once that approved then all values could be brought up to date. The Clerk then clarified that the Committee were of the opinion if the Board could not extend to catchment then there would be no benefit to merging the two Boards and re-iterated the initial process confirming that a consultation process would be needed with DEFRA, the EA and ratepayers. AG then declared an interest as a farmer within the proposed extended district asking if those within

the extended area would end up paying a flat rate as per the current area so the Board were therefore being asked to agree to something that would affect people who weren't represented today. The Clerk said that no discussions had been held to date on if there would be a differential rate between the Highland and Lowland catchments but that a rate would be levied on them and this would be dependent upon what expenditure levels would be faced by the new Board in the extended area. AG recalled that there was a guiding principle from DEFRA that Boards should be moving to a flat rate. The Clerk concurred and AG responded that he felt the proposal was to surrender a lot of control to what was undertaken in the district and how that was paid for. The Clerk confirmed that other Boards had differential ratings so there was no reason the new Board could not do so. He added that if the Board wanted to control the extended area then the current proposal was the mechanism with which to do so. The Chair added that most of the flooding problems occurred on assets in the extended area currently outside of Board control and stated that if the Board could extend that control then hopefully it should no longer have the expenditure to repair the damage caused and that the proposal was only for an agreement in principle. AG said he was far from convinced that this would lead to that as if did extend then have a whole new group of people who are eligible to be on the Board but most of whom would not be interested in stopping the flooding as it didn't affect them. RH then referred to the report where it stated there would be a central board then lots of individual ones which surely would increase costs. Clerk stated that a concern at S&GWB was a loss of member representation and one of the suggestions was to set up local working groups to report to a representative on the Board. He added that it was not a simple process and would take anything up to 10 years to reach the end point and that discussions would need to be held at each stage. AG concerned with proposals that the additional groups would be harder work for members and may need additional Clerk support. The Clerk said that may be the case for the initial set up. BJ added that from an operational point of view he saw sub areas working better than the Board did currently. He feels that the model gives a greater level of detail into practical water management into the catchment. HW stated that voted to look at the plan and did a very good job but were a long way from actioning it and currently more questions than answers. MS stated that the time would give the opportunity to explore alternative solutions. Further discussions took place surrounding operations with the Clerk mentioning Anglian Water who required an additional 100 million litres of water a day and the possible options of providing water to them to reduce Board costs, referring to a comment made by BJ at the S&GWMB that would like the new Board to be self-financing within 15 years. MS added that sees the Board as dynamic group where things get done on a good financial basis in comparison to the quangos suffered on a national basis with a lot of inertia and the proposal is an opportunity to go up a level but not to fall into the trap of a bureaucratic hole where everything talked about but nothing gets done concluding there was good future with the proposal yet still keeping the dynamism of the current Board. The Chair asked if the proposal was agreed then what would be the stage at the next meeting to which the Clerk responded that hopefully he would be able to advise that the support had been agreed and proceed to the next step. AG asked why the question can't be asked before Board approval. The Clerk confirmed the S&GWMB had already agreed in principal and that it would give more weight to the question if both Boards were in agreement. AG said concerned that will get too invested to pull out and not convinced enough for extended area and for him not enough information for him to agree in principle. RH asked at this stage if support could just be given to approach DEFRA and the EA to see if support would be given. CS commented that it was about merging with S&GWMB and if going for a bigger catchment area then would include them. **Two proposals were put forward, one by RH that just support approaching the EA & DEFRA with AG seconding and CS proposing merge with S&GWB on condition that can extend to catchment with MS seconding. The Clerk then took votes on the second option in line with the Boards standing orders confirming voted for by 15 members with votes on the first option being 5 members. The agreement in principle to merge with S&GWMB providing could extend to catchment was therefore passed**. CS commended the report stating it was excellent with the Chair confirming that the Board were not yet at the point of no return.

FINANCE REPORT

2026.31 Rating Report – RO advised the outstanding balance included eight ratepayers who were being taken to Court in June, however, four had now settled following issue of Summonses. She confirmed current rates had been issued with 30% agricultural rates and 50% special levy collected to date.

2026.32 Audit – Information noted.

2026.33 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 1 – FO took Members through. **Approval proposed by TSN and seconded by AG.**

2026.34 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – FO took Members through advising that a significant surplus of £46,703 had been made resulting in a carry forward balance of £376,684 equating to a 44% reserve level. BJ requested that standing charges for electricity at the pump stations be separated out for future reports. AG queried if the additional mobile equipment was covered by insurance and if that had made a difference to the premium. FO confirmed they were and the premium had increased by £7,000. Chair stated that significant savings has been achieved since the employment of the two staff with the FO advising that after the first year they had approximately saved the Board £50,000 so for the full term of employment to date anticipated this would be around £200,000 but would confirm figures at the next meeting. Eng pointed out that the Board had made savings of £2,500 per week by not having to hire out temporary pumps and that they could hire out their own, but this would need confirming with the Insurance Company. Chair requested this be looked at with TSN suggesting a policy needed to be put in place for this. **Approval of Accounts proposed by BJ and seconded by AG.**

2026.35 Budget Comparison for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – Information noted following discussions on Accounts.

2026.36 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 2 – FO took Members through. **Approval proposed by TSN and seconded by CS.**

2026.37 Five-Year Budget Estimate – Information noted with FO adding that following the release of the new FCERM funding then he and the Eng were to review the Capital Reserve Programme and provide an update for the next meeting.

2026.38 Schedule of Payments – **Approval proposed by CS and seconded by AG.**

2026.39 Chair thanked FO for excellent report and stated it was a good position for the Board to be in.

ENGINEER REPORT

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

2026.40 Employees – The Clerk left the meeting, and the Eng proceeded to advise Members that the Staff had now been employed for four and a half years and that they had shown significant commitment to their roles without being asked to. He confirmed that a lot of their focus recently had been at Ravensfleet Pumping Station in Scunthorpe & Gainsborough WMB district which had recently been commissioned and was now fully electric. He added that an additional 161 hours of diesel pumping (a continuation from previous years) had been undertaken both at night and over weekends predominately by Sam but with assistance from Callum who had also ensured that fixing of assets had occurred within the same day along with arranging for pumps to be overhauled utilising the IDB fund. Eng then added that without their commitment the 10 million pounds of additional works through the IDB fund would not have been deliverable. He continued that it had been another great year for both employees with appraisal outcomes again being outstanding and exceeding expectations. The Chair thanked him for the report and requested that the Boards thanks be passed to the staff stating that they really appreciated their efforts and what they were doing and promoting and developing the Board. All Members were in agreement.

2026.41 Employees Remuneration – Discussions were held following the above update with fee scales being discussed and the possible addition of an apprentice with the Chair suggesting a further reassessment be held in six months when they had reached 5 years service to ensure their continued commitment. **A proposal was made by RH for an increase of 5%, HW seconded with all Members in favour.** The Clerk returned to the meeting.

2026.42 Asset Management System – JE gave a brief overview of the system advising Members that it was a legal requirement and confirming the proposed costs would be fixed for three years if utilising the Government Gateway and that the Board could choose to leave at any time. He also confirmed that the current price was only available until October. Discussions took place with TSN asking how easy it would be to get data on and off. JE advised that the data could be exported to any platform and if moving to a new supplier help would be available to assist adding that AMX were fully onboard with

helping due to being part of the Government Cloud. **Approval proposed by RH and seconded by AG with all in agreement**. The Chair then thanked JE for a good report.

2026.43 New IDB Fund Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement – Mobile Pump Assets – Eng confirmed these were all now insured and stored securely with only a teleporter and trailer yet to be received. He added that the EA, via Cranfield University, were undertaking an independent review into IDBs and the value for money of mobile pump assets confirming that he had met with a Professor from the University to go through a 13-page questionnaire and he suspected that they may also gain evidence for a possible future support fund for IDBs.

2026.44 Main River – Eng referred Members to the report by Keeton Marine on their inspection of the Gravity Outfalls on the River Ancholme. MS commented that it was an excellent presentation and was very comprehensive.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

2026.45 Information noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISER REPORT

2026.46 Information noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2026.47 4th November 2026

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

The Board have received no complaints since the last meeting.

4/11/26