1. Governance

Recommendations:

- Note the information contained in this report

1.1 Apologies for Absence

1.2 Declaration of Interest

1.3 Minutes of the Meeting held 2 June 2026

Member	12.11.24	4.2.25	12.3.25	26.6.25	11.11.25	3.2.26	2.6.26
Mrs Rosemary J Webster (Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	√	A
Mr John Richard Fawbert	√	√	A	√	√	√	√
Mr Graham W Martinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mrs Rita Brough (Vice Chair)	√	√	√	√	A	A	√
Mr Mally Boatman	√	√	√	A	√	√	A
EYRC							
Mr Brent Huntington	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Liz Sargeantson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cllr Nick Coultish	-	-	√	-	-	√	-
Cllr David Jeffreys	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Anne Handley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Craig Benson (Clerk)	Clerk
David Blake (Finance Officer)	FO
Roger Smith (Engineer)	Eng
Janette Parker (Rating Officer)	RO
Catherine Porter (Environment Officer)	EO

GOVERNANCE

2026.32 Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Mrs R Webster and Mr M Boatman.

2026.33 Declaration of Interest – None.

2026.34 Minutes of Meeting held 3 February 2026 – Minutes considered and proposed as true record by DJ and seconded by BH.

2026.35 Matters Arising – None.

2026.36 FOI/Complaints – None.

CLERK'S REPORT

2026.37 Clerk advised his report was for note with the following update.

2026.38 Legislation – Information noted with Clerk adding that if successful in being added to the list for FCERM funding then this would reduce the need for borrowing.

2026.39 Re-Constitution of Board – Clerk confirmed the draft order had now been received and been sent to the Minister. The list of appointees to the Board had also been received and needed

to be finalised. He asked Members to advise him if they knew of anyone who wished to be on the Board so a full complement could be confirmed.

2026.40 Policy – Information noted.

2026.41 ADA – Information noted with both DJ and the Eng confirming they would be attending the ADA Northern Branch Summer Meeting and Tour.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2026.42 Rate Report – RO advised reduced outstanding amount and that 77% of rates and 50% of special levies had been collected to date.

2026.43 Audit – FO confirmed this had now been completed and returned with clean bill of health.

2026.44 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 1 - FO took Members through with approval proposed by RF and seconded by BH.

2026.45 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – FO gave Members an overview of the report provided confirming that a surplus of £116,247 had been achieved with a carry forward balance of £323,882 equating to a reserve level over 100%. **Approval proposed by DJ and seconded by RF.**

2026.46 Budget Comparison for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – Information noted following discussions above.

2026.47 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 2 - FO took Members through with approval proposed by BH and seconded by RF.

2026.48 Schedule of Payments – BH queried payment to Schofield Sweeney asking if advice was necessary. Eng confirmed it was for legal advice surrounding planning issues with the Clerk adding that if the Board's enforcement procedures were ignored then the next stage was to involve Solicitors. **Approval proposed by RF and seconded by DJ.**

2026.49 Five-Year Forecast Estimate – Information noted.

ENGINEERS REPORT

2026.50 Engineer advised the report was for note with the following added

2026.51 Downes Ground Pumping Station – Information noted.

2026.52 Pump Stations Access Track – Eng updated Members on the status of the track before advising that the EA were prepared to transfer the freehold of the track to the Board for a nominal sum of £1. **Discussions took place with BH proposing approval of the purchase with RF seconding.**

2026.53 Asset Management System – Eng referred to the additional report circulated with the papers and advised Members of the costs. Clerk added that the proposed system was used by the EA and gave an overview of the benefits confirming that it was a three-year contract which could be terminated at any time. **Approval proposed by RF and seconded by DJ.**

2026.54 Tour of the District – Discussions were held with proposed locations to visit and suggestion to hold separately to the next meeting. Eng to circulate details along with proposed dates to Members to confirm attendance.

2026.55 Maintenance – Eng referred to a letter received by the Chair last week and confirmed he had attended a meeting on site prior to this meeting with an occupier near the Rugby Club. They were keen to have the works undertaken and suggested that any arisings could be put on their land after harvest was completed. He advised Members of the original cost of the works at circa

£7,500 but added that he would go back to the contractor and source revised costs following the occupier's proposal.

2026.56 LDA 1991, Section 23 Breach – Eng advised that HB Holt & Sons were proposing to culvert a section of watercourse, he added that this would continue to be dealt with via Solicitors along with several other occupiers who were in breach of Board Byelaws.

2026.57 BH enquired about Southfield Lane PS following his report of break in. Clerk advised it was Yorkshire Water's Kiosk that had been broken into and not the station and that they had been informed.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2026.58 Legislation – Information noted.

2026.59 Biodiversity Action Plan – EO gave overview of Water Vole surveys undertaken as per additional report issued with the papers and advised that consideration was currently being given to opportunities for the next year.

2026.60 Mink Trapping – EO confirmed that the first mink had been caught.

2026.61 ADA Environment Day – EO gave overview on the results of the various meetings attended.

2026.62 BH thanked EO for the report.

2026.63 Clerk referred to the mention in the report regarding buffer strips and possible use of BAP funds moving forwards. He asked Members to consider if they would like to target specific landowners where it would be beneficial to encourage them to install buffer strips, possibly offering a reduction in drainage rates as an incentive. Discussions took place.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2026.64 Information noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2026.65 Proposed for 10th November 2026 but Clerk again stated that could be brought forward to October and would circulate proposed dates to all Members.

1.4 Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held 22 October 2026

Member	4.2.25	12.3.25	26.6.25	11.11.25	3.2.26	2.6.26	22.10.26
Mrs Rosemary J Webster (Chair)	√	√	√	√	√	A	√
Mr John Richard Fawbert	√	A	√	√	√	√	√
Mr Graham W Martinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mrs Rita Brough (Vice Chair)	√	√	√	A	A	√	√
Mr Mally Boatman	√	√	A	√	√	A	√
EYRC							
Mr Brent Huntington	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Nick Coultish	-	√	-	-	√	-	√
Cllr David Jeffreys	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Victoria Aitken							NEW √

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

Craig Benson (Clerk)	Clerk
David Blake (Finance Officer)	FO
Roger Smith (Engineer)	Eng
Alex Walkinshaw	AW
Rebecca Lee	EL

The Clerk welcomed all to the meeting advising that Henry Boot Developments had agreed to fund the cost of modelling to show the impact of development at the Freeport site on the Boards systems.

GOVERNANCE

2026.66 Apologies for Absence – None received.

2026.67 Declaration of Interest – Noted for Council Members in attendance.

2026.68 RL introduced herself as the Project Manager with AW as the Technical Lead for the modelling undertaken. A presentation was then given based on HBD's proposed development of the Freeport 36 site looking at the options tested, the impacts and the future outcomes. Twelve options had been tested looking at water levels, flood extent and pump stations with some having been grouped together due to the similarities.

Option 1 (with 5 sub-categories) – Connecting Pastures x to either Towns Drain Upper or Oakhill Nature Reserve

Option 2 – Having a single pump into the Dutch River – currently New Potter PS and Orchard Cottage PS.

Options 3A & 3B – Remove both New Potter and Orchard Cottage PS and replace with one new pump station. MB asked why this was an option as not connected to the development site. RL explained that this was exploratory for the IDB itself but that dependent on which option chosen would impact on the development.

Option 5A – Removing all farm drain connections that connect Freeport site to Old Drain Upper so isolating the site entirely.

Option 5B – Restricting all the flow from the Freeport site to 1.4 litres/sec/ha (the IDB upper limit).

Discussions then took place on each of the options. Option 5B was discussed first as that was HBDs preferred scenario. RL added that HBD were completely on Board with the 1.4l/s/h option but were keen to explore any other mutually beneficial options going forwards. One potential idea was that HBD could co-fund the installation of a new pump which would result in betterment to the catchment enabling it to drain quicker and then possibly the IDB could look to increase the discharge rate. She then stated that this idea had not been modelled. The other options were then discussed at length with RL concluding that the presentation would be shared to all after the meeting and that should any Member have further questions, they could email them to her.

2026.69 Members thanked both for the presentation. The Clerk stated that from the Board perspective, Option 5B was the most cost effective with nothing being changed apart from the flow restriction to which MB added that it also worked within the planning guidelines. Members discussed the option further with NC proposing that delegated approval be given to the Clerk and Engineer to take the Option to HBD subject to no change but if anything was to change then it be brought back to the Board for further discussion. BH seconded. RF proposed that the information be considered further by each Member and a decision taken at the next meeting. RB seconded. **Votes were held on the second proposal where 5 voted for the proposal and 2 voted against so the decision was made to discuss at the next meeting in November 2026.**

1.5 Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

1.6 Public Forum

1.7 FOI/Complaints

The Board has received no complaints or FOI requests since the last meeting.