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 4 June 2026

Member	14.11. 2024	6.2. 2025	5.6. 2025	20.11. 2025	5.2. 2026	4.6. 2026
Graham Clarke – Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elizabeth Wilson – Vice Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Anderson	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A
James Dent						New ✓
Peter Houseman	A	-	✓	A	✓	✓
Mark Sampson	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Donald Sanderson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Robert Sanderson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Patrick Swiers					New ✓	✓
Richard Tesseyman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timothy Webster	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Alyson Baker	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓
Cllr Carl Les	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Cllr Andrew Paraskos	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting

Officer:	Craig Benson	Clerk
	Roger Smith	Engineer
	Matthew Cooke	Asset Manager
	David Blake	Finance Officer
	Janette Parker	Rating Officer

Chairman Announcements

2026.46 The Chair advised Members that Cecil Hutchinson, a previous Chair of the River Wiske IDB, and Peter Hutchinson, a previous Chair of the Claro IDB, had both recently passed away.

2026.47 The Chair expressed the Board's gratitude to Ian Thornton for his years of service and contributions to both the Claro IDB and the Swale & Ure DB.

Declaration of Interest

2026.48 None.

Apologies for Absence

2026.49 Apologies were received from Mr. D. Anderson, Mr. D. Sanderson and Cllr Les.

Membership

2026.50 Clerk referred to James Dent who was in attendance and reminded Members that after discussions at the last meeting they had agreed to defer co-opting him to the Board until he was in attendance. **All Members in agreement to co-opt him to the Board.**

Meeting Papers

2026.51 The Clerk stated that all had received a paper copy of the meeting papers and advised that if Members wished to opt out and not receive this then to advise Officers accordingly. EW stated that she had not received a paper copy.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2026

2026.52 Minutes were reviewed and Chair raised the Highland Water contribution in relation to the Asset Managers salary. Discussions were held on how this would be calculated moving forwards. **The Minutes were approved as a true record by PS and seconded by MS.**

Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

2026.53 None.

Complaints/FOI/EIR Requests

2026.54 None received.

CLERK REPORT

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

2026.55 Policy – Information noted with Clerk reporting that he had now received the sealed copy of the Boards Byelaws.

2026.56 Legislation – The Clerk gave further information on the new FCERM funding.

2026.57 Environment Agency – Information noted.

2026.58 ADA – Information noted with Clerk adding that the Chair, Eng and Asset Manager would be attending the ADA Northern Branch Summer Tour. He reported that at the ADA Trent Branch meeting the previous day the chairman of ADA, Robert Cauldwell, had confirmed that the recent DEFRA IDB questionnaire study was being finalised with release expected in the summer, noting one main issue nationwide was with Governance, no further information was available at this time but the Clerk would keep Members informed.

FINANCE REPORT

2026.59 Rating Report – RO confirmed the outstanding balance at 31st March 2026 of which £3,400 related to bad debtors. She advised that Liability Orders had been obtained for six of those debtors in Court on 13th June 2026 and they had now been issued. RO then confirmed that new drainage rates had been issued with 51% agricultural rates and 50% special levy collected to date. MS queried if it was cost effect to take people to Court with the RO confirming that some ratepayers who had been taken to Court previously now paid their rates. RS queried the cost to the Board for the Court Action and the RO advised this was £900.

2026.60 Audit – FO advised this was now complete referring members to the additional report issued confirming the Auditor was happy the risk areas were low and that the mitigations and controls in place were more than adequate.

2026.61 Risk Register – **FO took Members through with approval agreed by All Members.**

2026.62 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 1 – FO took Members through. **Approval proposed by EW and seconded by TW.**

2026.63 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – FO took Members through confirming the Board had made a healthy surplus for the year of £71,401 and with a carry forward balance of £561,903 this resulted in a reserve level of 74%, so the Board were in a healthy position. RS queried what would happen if the Highland Water were to stop. FO advised that the reserves could be utilised to offset if not received after which the budget could be reviewed for future years. The Chair added that notice

would likely be received before it was withdrawn and further discussions took place. **Approval of Accounts proposed by AB and seconded by TW.**

2026.64 Budget Comparison for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – Information noted following discussions on Accounts.

2026.65 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 2 – FO took Members through. **Approval proposed by MS and seconded by RT.**

2026.66 Five Year Budget Estimate – Information noted.

2026.67 Schedule of Payments – FO advised that the large payment to Total Energy was due to them changing platforms and estimating the reading at Spudling Dyke PS, he confirmed that this had now been corrected. MS queried the payment for the access track with the Eng confirming the Boards contractor had been appointed to undertake works as part of a PSCA agreement for another Board. **Approval proposed by TW and seconded by JD.**

ENGINEER REPORT

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

2026.68 Asset Management System – Eng referred to the additional report circulated with the meetings papers and confirmed the costs of the system to Members. The Clerk stated that AMX was the most favourable system which the EA currently utilised. He gave a brief overview of the benefits and advised that costs had been shared across the Boards within the Shire Group and would reduce in subsequent years. **Approval proposed by TW and seconded by AP with all in agreement**.

2026.69 Spudling Dyke Pump Station – Information noted.

2026.70 Hidrostal Super Betsey Standby Pump – Eng thanked MS for agreeing to store the pump.

2026.71 Remote Water Level Sensors – Information noted.

2026.72 Maintenance – information noted.

2026.73 Proposed Maintenance Works – information noted with **approval proposed by PS and seconded by AP.**

2026.74 Environment Agency – Information noted with regards Bedale Beck. The Eng advised that the EA were seeking a contribution of £15,000 from the Board towards maintenance and improvement works to the Outfall at Newcome Stell. **Discussions were held with approval proposed by MS and seconded by RS.**

2026.75 Watercourse Maintenance Contract – Eng advised that he had received a request from Coxon Brothers for a 3% increase as per the terms of the contract requesting approval from Members. **Discussions took place with approval proposed by MS and seconded by RS.**

2026.76 Planning, Pre-application Advice and Consents – Information noted.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

2026.77 Information noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISER REPORT

2026.78 Information noted with MS querying how many mink had been caught to date. Eng advised none so far as the Contractor had to undergoing training and would be setting up the traps shortly. The Asset Manager confirmed that Cod Beck fishing club had reported they had caught 21 to date from three traps and he had advised them the Board were also setting traps and not to interfere with them.

2026.79 Clerk advised that the IDB team of Environmentalists had created a package of training for Members relating to invasive species. In line with Governance and IDB 1 forms asking if any training had been undertaken he felt it would be beneficial for Members and proposed a fifteen-minute session at the end of a meeting once a year. He added that there could be a range of subjects and this would help the Board comply with DEFRA requests. A proposal was made for a session at the end of the November meeting.

REPRESENTATION

2026.80 Information noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BY LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

2026.81 The Chair thanked EW for all her work arranging the retirement celebration for Ian Thornton. She also requested thanks be passed to Alyson Duffy for all her assistance. The Chair then advised that the Rating Officer would be producing the minutes going forwards.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2026.82 Thursday 19th November 2026. Members were asked to consider if they would like to bring this meeting forward to reduce the time between meetings, but agricultural Members felt November was a better time due to harvesting.

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

No complaints or FOI requests have been received since the last meeting.