

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
22nd November 2023 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr K C Casswell

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr W Ash | * Mr J Atkinson |
| * Mr V Barker | * Cllr P Bedford |
| * Mr J Fowler | * Cllr M Geaney |
| Cllr A Hagues | * Mr P Holmes |
| * Cllr Z Lane | * Mr M Leggott |
| * Cllr D Middleton | Cllr C Mountain |
| * Mr R Needham | * Mr P Robinson |
| * Mr M Rollinson | * Cllr C Rylott |
| Cllr D Scoot | Cllr H Staples |
| * Cllr S Welberry | * Mr C Wray |
| * Mr M Brookes | Cllr N Drayton |

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director and Deputy CEO)
Mrs A Chamberlain (Finance & Admin Director)
Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director)

2222 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

The Chairperson welcomed the Finance and Admin Director and the Maintenance Director to their first Board Meeting.

2223 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Ash, Cllr D Scoot and Cllr N Drayton.

2224 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

Declarations of interest was received from:

- Mr M Rollinson – Minute 2233(c), Consent Number 2023-B11 and Consent Number 2023-X02.
- Mr V Barker – Minute 2233(c), Consent Number 2023-L07.

2225 Minutes of the last Board meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 13th June 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record with the following amendment:

- Minute 2162(c) – *'The Board were informed that the four new Toyota truckers...' should be '...Toyota trucks'.*

2226 Confidential Minutes of the last Board Meeting - Agenda Item 5

The Confidential Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 13th June 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2227 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 6

(a) Plant - Mitsubishi L200 Trucks Replacement - Minute 2162(c)

The Projects Director noted that the Board are not yet in receipt of the four new Toyota Trucks and are they are now expected in December 2023.

(b) Visit from Minister Pow - Minute 2163(e)(iv)

The Chief Executive made reference to the Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN) scheme and the Board's willingness to take on some of the low consequence watercourses (if in an appropriate condition and / or with finances). The Chief Executive added that at the recent ADA National Conference the Environment Agency (EA) Chairperson gave an address in which he stated that the RMRN Scheme had been paused and that it is his ambition to get it restarted over the following twelve months and start getting some of the main rivers put into local hands with local decisions. The Chairperson noted that this was also mentioned at an ADA Director's meeting earlier in the year and that it was raised then, by IDBs, that if the rivers are in poor condition additional funding will be required with them in order to take them on.

(c) Fens 2100+ Project - Minute 2167

The Chief Executive informed the Board that they have recently held a meeting with the Fens 2100+ team (Environment Agency led project) at the offices of the Board, giving them the same information as they would during a new Board Member induction. The Fens 2100+ team have since relayed how useful it was and the amount of knowledge gained from it. The Chairperson added that, previously, the sea walls were not on the Fens 2100+ radar but have since been added to their presentations. It was also noted that the Black Sluice Pumping Station (Boston) (decommissioned), may be required again in the next thirty years if sea levels rise and half of the tidal vacation capacity is lost.

(d) Rating account 30-3030-5 - Minute 2169

The Chief Executive reminded the committee that the ratepayer was told that he would need to remove the specialist equipment within the chicken sheds in order to have the special building value removed, as agreed by the Executive Committee (Minute 2199(k)). The ratepayer removed this equipment, and the special building value was removed and revalued on 01 October 2023. The ratepayer had paid his bill in full and has received a refund from the Board for the difference in value from 01 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The ratepayer is now wanting to claim compensation for the past four and half years (value of £1,702.47) that he has paid at the special building rate, his reasoning being that the Board's demands do not clearly show that it is at a special building rate and so he was unaware he was paying the higher value.

The Chief Executive continued that there is no mechanism within the law to allow the Board to give this compensation. All AGREED that the Board will not pay any compensation and consider the matter resolved.

(e) Future arrangements of the Board – Minute 2163(e)(v)

The Chief Executive confirmed that the new Site Engineer, Lee Whelan, has commenced employment with the Board. Likewise, it was confirmed that an Administration Apprentice, Amy Wilson, has also commenced her employment.

2228 To receive the minutes of the following meetings - Agenda Item 7

(a) Southern Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Southern Works Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Southern Works Committee meeting held on the 4th July 2023, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters Arising:

(i) Drainage Issues, Pinchbeck North Fen - Minute 2180(e)

Mr V Barker questioned if there was anything further to report on this matter? The Projects Director responded that he is going to discuss with Mr J Atkinson around potential proposals.

(ii) SFFD Desilting Guthrum to Black Hole Drove Pumping Station - Minute 2181(d)(ii)

Mr V Barker questioned if there was anything further to report on this matter? The Projects Director noted that the methods have been considered, however, this may have to be deferred due to the large number of slips to be repaired and the budget being required for that.

(b) Executive Committee

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 14th September 2023, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters arising:

(i) Pay Award 2024/25 - Minute 2190(a)

The Chief Executive reminded the committee that the 2023/24 Pay Award included an unconsolidated lump sum of £1800, due to the Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) figures always looking twelve months prior and it being expected that the AWE figure would substantially increase twelve months later (now). However, this has not been the case (due to all the industrial action and pay awards having taken longer to settle) and so the first element of the 2024/25 Pay Award is to consolidate £1,130 from 01 April 2024. The second element of the 2024/25 Pay Award is an increase of 6.45% (AWE). With both of these elements, it gives an increase of 11.06% at Spine Point 15 (most widely used spine point by IDBs for workforce).

The union had requested an 11% increase, and by having a consolidated element it means that the lower scale points receive a higher percentage increase.

(ii) Electricity (Woldmarsh & Pumping regime) - Minute 2190(b)

The Chief Executive noted that the indicative contract prices for the 01 October 2023 have been received. The standing charges have increased by 132% to £160,000 (per annum).

For comparison, standing charges cost £38,000 in 2021/22 and £69,000 in 2022/23, the total increase over the last three years being 321%. The Chief Executive added that National ADA are making representations to central government and Ofgem to try and get IDB exemptions.

The Chief Executive continued that the consumption price rates have reduced considerably but until the first bills are received the exact rates aren't confirmed. It was noted that he has also tried to obtain other quotes, but nobody was willing to quote.

Mr M Leggott noted the benefit of being involved with Woldmarsh and that Witham 4th IDB have just had an increase to their standing charges of 192% (independent).

(iii) Wyberton Towns Drain Realignment – Minute 2196

The Chairperson questioned if there is anything further to report on this? The Projects Director responded that Chestnut Homes have been written to with the three options, as agreed at Minute 2196, but has not received any response, although at another meeting, regarding another matter, it was mentioned that the Chestnut Homes Engineer wanted to have another meeting about it.

(iv) Access to Great Hale Pumping Station – Minute 2197

The Projects Director noted that the owner of the land that the Board use for access to Great Hale Pumping Station was written to, to confirm that there would be no increase in the Board's contribution, and no response has been received. There have been no issues with accessing the pumping station.

(v) Attendees for the National ADA Conference – Minute 2199(a)

It was noted that Daniel Withnall (CEO), Keith Casswell (Chairperson), Paul Nicholson (Projects Director) and Mr M Rollinson (Board Member) attended the National ADA Conference on 21 November 2023.

(vi) Wash Barrier – Minute 2199(f)

The Chairperson noted that ADA's current stance on the Wash Barrier is neutral and to not get involved, noting that the Board will also take this approach.

To approve the following:

(vii) Committee membership for the Audit & Risk, Structures and Environment Committees

The committee membership was approved when approving the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, as below:

- Audit & Risk Committee – Cllr M Geaney & Cllr Zoe Lane
- Environment Committee – Cllr C Rylott
- Structures Committee – Cllr D Middleton & Mr M Leggott

(viii) Timetable for 2023 meetings

The proposed timetable for meetings during 2024 was AGREED as below:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----|
| Executive | Tuesday 16 January | 2pm |
| Board | Tuesday 06 February | 2pm |
| Environment | Tuesday 27 February | 2pm |
| Structures | Tuesday 19 March | 2pm |
| Southern Works | Tuesday 09 April | - |
| Audit & Risk | Tuesday 30 April | 2pm |
| Executive | Tuesday 21 May | 2pm |
| Board | Tuesday 11 June | 2pm |
| Northern Works | Tuesday 02 July | - |
| Executive | Tuesday 17 September | 2pm |
| Joint Works | Tuesday 8 October | 2pm |
| Audit & Risk | Tuesday 29 October | 2pm |
| Board | Tuesday 19 November | 2pm |
| Executive | Tuesday 10 December | 2pm |

(c) Joint Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Joint Works Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 3rd October 2023, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters Arising:

(i) Lincolnshire Reservoir - Minute 2210

Mr V Barker questioned if there was any update on the Lincolnshire Reservoir, specifically the emergency drawdown? The Chairperson noted that there is no further progress yet, noting the scale of it. Mr V Barker noted that he would like to go public about what they are proposing. The Chairperson noted that it would be premature as they are nowhere near a finalised proposed route. Mr V Barker felt it would be too late once it is finalised. The Chairperson noted that it won't be as it will have to go through planning, consultations etc.

The Projects Director noted that the team working on the reservoir have pushed back the timescales from where they expected to be at, adding that they haven't currently got the data they need to be able to make the decision, there are currently lots of options being explored.

The Chairperson noted that if there is progress, then the SLWP Consultant will be invited to the February 2024 Board meeting to give an update.

The Chief Executive noted that the Board have signed a confidentiality agreement and that the Board need to be respectful of that.

It was further noted that it is being asked if Anglian Water can recompense for the Board's Officer's time on this matter (salary + oncost).

Mr V Barker noted the enormity of the figures (amount of water to be moved) reported previously and the homeowners and farmers that will be affected by flooding.

The Chairperson felt, in his opinion, that washlands would be likely, further noting that he has suggested that a pump at Boston would be beneficial, given that it was also noted by Fens 2100+ that the Black Sluice Pumping Station (Boston) (decommissioned), may be required again in the next thirty years if sea levels rise and half of the tidal vacation capacity is lost.

(d) Audit & Risk Committee

The Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 24th October 2023, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Cllr M Geaney referenced Minute 2219(e) Section 3.23, Working Time, and the error in wording, '...long working...' should be 'lone working...'

Cllr M Geaney referenced Minute 2219(h), Drone Flying Policy, and the error in wording '*You should take all reasonable steps to not put people in danger.*'

Mr M Brookes and the Audit & Risk Committee members felt that this was the correct wording as agreed at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

To approve the following:

(i) Annual Return including External Auditor's Opinion for 2022/23

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairperson noted that there were no matters of concern reported within the audit. The committee expressed their congratulations to the team on such an achievement.

To adopt the following:

(ii) Policy No. 03: Financial Regulations

The Board RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations (No. 03) be adopted.

(iii) Policy No. 04: Procurement Policy

The Board RESOLVED that the Procurement Policy (No. 04) be adopted.

(iv) Policy No. 05: Investment Strategy

The Board RESOLVED that the Investment Strategy (No. 05) be adopted.

(v) Health & Safety Committee Terms of Reference

The Chief Executive noted that one of the first things he did as the newly appointed Chief Executive was form a Health & Safety Committee as a way of establishing communication with employees around health and safety. The Chief Executive continued that he didn't want the committee to be too 'management heavy'. The committee has met four times and seems to have been received well, with the committee now reviewing Risk Assessments.

The first item the committee reviewed was the Health & Safety Policy, this has not been previously reviewed by the Board as it was previously managed by Cope Safety Management (external consultant). This policy was presented at Minute 2228(d)(vi).

The Chief Executive also noted that the number of near misses being reported have now increased, with the workforce feeling like they are able to report without repercussions.

Mr P Holmes commended the composition of the Health & Safety Committee, including having a Board Member.

Mr M Brookes continued with this, and that Mr M Leggott has volunteered to be the Board representative on the Health & Safety Committee. All AGREED Mr M Leggott be appointed on the Health & Safety Committee.

The Board RESOLVED that the Health and Safety Committee Terms of Reference be adopted.

(vi) Policy No. 07: Health and Safety Policy

The Chief Executive noted that the Health and Safety committee have reviewed the Health & Safety Policy, this has not been previously reviewed by the Board as it was previously managed by Cope Safety Management (external consultant).

The Board RESOLVED that the Health and Safety Policy (No. 07) be adopted.

(vii) Policy No. 41: Public Sector Cooperation Agreement

The Board RESOLVED that the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (No. 41) be adopted.

(viii) Policy No. 43: Electronic Information and Communication Systems

The Board RESOLVED that the Electronic Information and Communication Systems Policy (No. 43) be adopted.

(ix) New Policy No. 51: Drone Flying Policy

The Board RESOLVED that the Drone Flying Policy (No. 51) be adopted.

2229 To review the Risk Register - Agenda Item 8

The Chief Executive explained to the committee that there have been issues experienced with the Board's telephone system, however, they are currently working. There have also been some internal network issues, with HBP claiming that it is due to BT and the limited upload speeds, however, this has been questioned due to it being the offsite backups that identify the problems which run at early hours of the morning when nobody is working. This is still being looked into and is proposed, by the Audit & Risk Committee, to increase on the Risk Register as below:

- Risk 8.2 Loss of telephone communication – increase likelihood to medium, giving a risk score of 2.
- Risk 8.4 Network failure – increase likelihood to medium, giving a risk score of 6, meaning it will be reviewed at every meeting until it is resolved, and the risk score can be reduced.

The Board RESOLVED the Risk Register be accepted.

2230 To receive a report on Finance and Admin - Agenda Item 9

(a) Period 07 Management Accounts

The Chief Executive presented the Period 07 Management Accounts (produced by the Finance and Admin Director), highlighting the following points:

- 21 summonses have now been submitted for court on 4th December.
- Summer cutting is underspent because the programme had to be paused whilst the workforce dealt with Storm Babet (two weeks behind schedule).
- Desilting is overspent due to overrunning the winter 22/23 desilting programme into April 2023.

Mr M Rollinson questioned the amount spent on electricity during Storm Babet? The Chief Executive confirmed that from the day that it rained / commenced to five days later it is estimated to have cost £41,000.

It was also noted that James Scott of Brewin Dolphin is attending the December 2023 Executive Committee meeting to discuss the Board's investments.

(b) Drainage Rates Report

The Chief Executive referred to the revaluation within the report, and all AGREED to the amended valuation and to the write off value of £342.88.

| Account Ref | Location of Revaluation | Description | Existing Valuation | Proposed Valuation | Write Off |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 3030 | Bourne Drove, Dyke Fen | Poultry house decommissioned. | £4,910 | £998 | £342.88 |

The Chief Executive referred to the write offs within the report, all AGREED to the write offs, as below:

| Account Ref | Location of Land | Description | Write Off |
|-------------|------------------|--|-----------|
| 2749 | Wyberton Marsh | Tree section (0.688ha) of land removed from account as it is not occupied by new owner of the rest of the land, nor was it ever occupied by the original owner of the rest of the land transferred. The tree section is not registered on Land Registry. | £20.86 |
| 3758 | Bicker Fen | Drainage Rate account was under asset management company but rates now being paid by new owners/occupiers of the property and land. | £5.23 |

Mr P Holmes referenced account 2749 and whether there becomes a time where it is no longer cost effective to try and determine the occupier due to the amount of time spent on it. The Chief Executive confirmed that this is the reasoning for writing it off.

Permission to Act at Court – The Chief Executive referred to confidential minute 2163(e)(v) from the Board meeting on 13 June 2023, noting that this needs to be agreed by the Board in the public meeting as opposed to confidentially.

All AGREED that the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance & Admin Director shall be authorised, as set down under Chapter 59, Section 54 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 to carry out the following:

- to institute or defend on the Board's behalf proceedings in relation to a drainage rate; and
- notwithstanding that these officers are not qualified as solicitors, to appear on their behalf in any proceedings before a magistrates court for the issue of a warrant of distress for failure to pay a drainage rate.

It is further recommended that the Chief Executive Officer and Finance and Admin Director of the Board be authorised to arrange the execution of distress warrants on behalf of the Board for the recovery of drainage rates.

(c) Quarter 2 Forecast

The Quarter 2 Forecast is produced using the actual figures from Periods 01 – 06 and for the third and fourth quarters the budgets are reviewed to see where it is estimated to be by the end of the year.

The Chief Executive noted that the summary appears worse than it is (forecasting to require an additional £203,219 from reserves) due to not being allowed to bring grant money forward. The income was in a previous year and has not yet been spent. Therefore, the realistic figure, if grants are discounted, brings the figure to be £46,155, made up of some of the following:

- Drain maintenance £10,000
- Admin & Establishment £16,000
- Environmental £3,000
- Reduction in rates and levies £5,000

2231 To receive the annual report on Health and Safety - Agenda Item 10

The Maintenance Director presented the annual report on health and safety, noting that Copes Safety Management will be used more as an auditor going forward, the next inspection due on 5th December.

It was highlighted that there has been an increase in the number of near misses being reported, the workforce feeling like they are able to, without repercussion.

The Maintenance Director continued that the Board continue to work with National Grid, noting that he had attended a cable safe forum that morning and that the workforce now use cones instead of signs to indicate cables, which are a lot easier for storage and usage.

The Maintenance Director next referred to the list of completed training and that it is currently 'catching up' due to COVID.

Lastly, the Maintenance Director referred to the newly formed Health & Safety Committee and that they are currently reviewing risk assessments. The interaction with the workforce members on the committee has been positive, with some minor suggestions already completed i.e., specific chainsaw first aid kits and tourniquets.

2232 To receive an update on the recent event Storm Babet - Agenda Item 11

The Chief Executive introduced Storm Babet, which entailed large quantities of rainfall in a short amount of time meaning the Board's emergency plan was enacted. This plan is triggered at +2.3mODN and pumps are started to be turned off at +2.7mODN. In this event, it did reach +2.7mODN and the pumps were turned off from the south upwards due to the tide being out at the time and discharging from Boston. It was noted that more rain fell in the north of the catchment than the south.

The Chief Executive continued by noting to the Board that during the event nobody (public) was reporting overtopping or flooding. The Board's Officers were aware of overtopping of the Helpringham Eau and so took the portable 8" pump to assist the pumping station, which made a difference. However, this was the only overtopping / flooding the Board were aware of during the event. A press release has since been published encouraging people to inform the Board of any flooding or overtopping at the time. The Board can therefore gather this information and try and find funding / lobby the Environment Agency (EA) to improve their watercourses.

The Chief Executive presented a map, including photos, showing incidents of overtopping within the Board's catchment. The Chief Executive made specific reference to Helpringham, noting that the Board's Site Engineer has since been out to site and taken levels of the bank and it has been established that there is a low point in the bank where it coincides with the overtopping. This overtopping caused flooding to a road and 200 acres of agricultural land. It was also noted that the Board removed a culvert at Holland Fen that was restricting flow.

Mr R Needham noted that this is the first time this has ever happened on this side, adding that it is a very obvious issue – bushes within the watercourse (top end at Helpringham creating a dam effect).

The Chief Executive noted that this is the sort of information the Board want and also want to engage with the ratepayers, parish councils etc. to then be able to approach the EA and show the impact of their low consequence watercourses.

The Chief Executive further added that the Chairperson of the EA has stated that the EA don't do land drainage, which is why their focus is around protecting property. However, the Chief Executive noted that the National Audit Office (NAO) report published last week states 'property and livelihoods'. The Chief Executive therefore highlighting that agricultural land is farmers livelihoods.

The Chief Executive concluded that ratepayers, councillors, the Board etc. need to be working together to lobby the EA, in a constructive manner, to take a partnership approach and, under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA), the Board to complete maintenance work on their watercourses. Mr R Needham noted that these incidents, caused by EA watercourses, cost the Board money which is not compensated by them. It was noted that there is no access to any funding on this occasion as an emergency wasn't formally declared in Lincolnshire and so there is no available Bellwin funding.

Mr P Holmes felt that the Board is an 'easy target' for landowners because the Board has a point of contact, and the EA don't. The Chief Executive added that because the Board maintain a lot of the highland carriers on behalf of the EA under the PSCA the public automatically assume that, because they see the Board's workforce doing the work, they are Board maintained drains. Further adding that the Board can only complete the works that they are instructed to by the EA on EA watercourses.

Mr R Needham also questioned whether the water levels had been lowered in anticipation, knowing that the storm and predicted rain was due. The Chief Executive confirmed that the EA lowered the SFFD three days prior to winter levels. It was noted that the Board watercourses weren't lowered, however, those that gravitate would start to gravitate to the lower SFFD levels.

The Projects Director noted that over the past few years he has compiled a list of all the work that needs doing on the EA Main Rivers that the Board maintain on their behalf. The Projects Director also reminded the committee that the Board didn't take on some of the watercourses proposed in the Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN) project due to their poor condition (inc. Cliff Beck), with the response from the EA being that there is no funding for them as they are low consequence. Over the past years, the EA has found some funding and the Board have completed some works on behalf of the EA including the removal of established trees and bushes on the Cliff Beck. This year, the EA instructed the Board not to maintain areas where the Board do not feel it is safe to use machines. The Projects Director further noted that he has submitted costs for the removal of trees and bushes and reprofiling the banks on the Helpringham Eau and the EA have not progressed it.

Mr R Needham noted that there needs to be a distinguishment between EA watercourses and Board watercourses. The Chief Executive noted that the important thing is to inform the Board of any flooding / overtopping and to also report it using the EA Flood Line. This will help to build a 'big picture' to support the request for funding for maintenance.

Mr R Needham questioned if people know how to report it? The Chief Executive noted that everybody that has contacted the Board have been informed, suggesting that it could also be included in the Rating Brochure.

Mr M Rollinson noted that property has a higher weighting to attract funding and so especially needs reporting, noting that there was a property in Swaton that flooded that he wasn't sure was reported.

The Chief Executive next displayed a spreadsheet received from Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) showing their records of flooding incidents (including internal property) during Storm Babet within the Board's catchment. Further noting, that none of these had been reported to the Board prior to receiving the spreadsheet. Mr M Brookes noted that LCC have to carry out a Section 19 survey on any internal property flooding.

Mr P Holmes felt the Board should be more proactive in getting the water to the pumps quicker as there is 'held up' water. The Chief Executive noted that the Board don't start summer cutting until 01 August due to bird nesting season as per EA National Guidance. Some watercourses, that are categorised as 'high consequence', flailing of the banks commences in March / April, but then must be continually flailed every month to deter ground nesting birds, which is all extra expenditure and resource that then can't be used for other works. If this approach was taken on more watercourses, then some other works would have to be sacrificed i.e., winter desilting, scheme works.

The Projects Director questioned what Mr P Holmes would propose to change in terms of this? Mr P Holmes noted that, ideally, he would like maintenance to commence earlier. The Projects Director noted that he can put together some proposals for different maintenance programmes. It was confirmed that environmental law states that grass cutting maintenance should not commence until August due to bird nesting season. The Projects Director also noted that by starting maintenance later (i.e., from August), the Board do not run through as many crops. Mr P Holmes felt that the fluvial events seem to occur mid-October and that the Board's system was not fit for purpose because of starting later with the grass cutting maintenance. The Projects Director noted that he doesn't disagree and can look at some alternative programmes of work, with focus on maintenance of pump drains.

The Chairperson noted the impact of the poor condition of the EA's highland carriers.

Mr M Rollinson noted the three pumping stations (South Kyme, Ewerby and Damford) with water circulating back round, which will be damaging their foundations. Video footage was displayed on screen, Mr M Rollinson noting it would be useful to have drone footage to show exactly where the water was coming in from (EA main river banks). The Projects Director noted that he has raised this with the EA who do not believe it is their responsibility even though it is water from their main river that is seeping through their banks.

2233 Reports on the following: - Agenda Item 12

(a) Monthly Accounts: (June 2023 – October 2023)

The Board's monthly accounts, inclusive of June 2023 - October 2023, were circulated.

Mr V Barker questioned the following two payments:

- 08/06/2023 EME Power Systems £70,622.40. It was noted that this was for the transformer at Gosberton Pumping Station.
- 13/07/2023 Crop Loss £748.14. Mr V Barker questioned if this relates to Minute 2199(g) (overspilled cradge)? It was confirmed it doesn't and that the crop loss relating to Minute 2199(g) totals £4,932.84.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) Monthly Accounts: Woldmarsh (June 2023 - September 2023)

The Board's monthly Woldmarsh invoices, inclusive of June 2023 - September 2023, were circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(c) Schedule of Consents (June 2023 - October 2023)

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents, consisting of June 2023 - October 2023, copies of which had been circulated. Viking Link consents being in red.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(d) Rainfall

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:30.