

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
4th November 2015 at 2pm

Members

Mr W Ash	*	Cllr R Austin
Mr J Atkinson	*	Cllr P Bedford
* Mr V A Barker	*	Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr K C Casswell	*	Cllr M Brookes
* Mr J Fowler	*	Cllr R Clark
* Mr P Holmes	*	Cllr Mrs J Harrison
* Mr R Leggott	*	Cllr C Rylott
* Mr P Robinson	*	Cllr B Russell
Mr M Rollinson	*	Cllr P Skinner
* Mr N J Scott	*	Cllr N Welton
* Mr J R Wray		

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)

The Finance Manager welcomed Members to the Board meeting. He then asked for nominations for appointment of Chairman of the Board.

839 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - Agenda Item 1

On the proposition of Cllr M Brookes, seconded by Cllr P Bedford and a show of hands it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr K C Casswell be appointed Chairman of the Board for the next three years.

The Chairman then thanked Members for their show of confidence and thanked Mr M J Scott for all he has done for the Board over the years. He welcomed Cllr Mrs J Harrison, Cllr N Welton, Cllr C Rylott and Mr N Scott to their first meeting.

840 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - Agenda Item 2

On the proposition of Cllr M Brookes, seconded by Mr R Leggott it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board for the next three years.

841 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 3

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Atkinson, Mr M Rollinson and Mr W Ash.

842 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 4

There were no declarations of interest and the Chairman reminded Members to hand in their completed declaration forms.

843 APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS - Agenda Item 5

The Chairman stated that the Executive Committee Terms of Reference state that the Committee should be made up of six members appointed to the Executive Committee by their elected positions:

On the proposition of Mr K Casswell, seconded by Cllr C Brotherton it was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr Peter Bedford be appointed the Representative from the District Council on the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee:

Mr Keith Casswell	Chairman
Mr Paul Holmes	Vice Chairman & Chairman Northern Works Committee
Cllr Michael Brookes	Chairman Audit & Risk Committee
Mr Jonathan Fowler	Chairman Culvert & Bridges Committee
Mr Mark Rollinson	Chairman Southern Works Committee
Cllr Peter Bedford	Representative from Boston Borough Council.

It was RESOLVED that the Northern Works Committee be appointed as follows:

Northern Works Committee	
Board Members	Co-opted Members
Mr Paul Holmes (Chairman)	Mr Simon Bartlett
Mr Peter Robinson	Mr James Pocklington
Mr Richard Leggott	Mr David Casswell
Mr Jonathan Fowler	Mr Roger Welberry
Mr Nick Scott	Mr Robert Needham
Cllr Peter Bedford	
Cllr Colin Brotherton	
Cllr Michael Brookes	
Cllr Richard Austin	
Cllr Claire Rylott	
Cllr Paul Skinner	
Cllr Nigel Welton	
Cllr Mrs Julie Harrison	

It was RESOLVED that the Southern Works Committee be appointed as follows:

Southern Works Committee	
Board Members	Co-opted Members
Mr Mark Rollinson (Chairman)	Mr Ross Dorrington
Mr John Atkinson	Mr Peter Harborow
Mr Keith Casswell	Mr Mark Richardson
Mr Richard Wray	Mr Mark Mowbray
Mr William Ash	Mr James Casswell
Mr Vic Barker	Mr Andrew Mair
Cllr Robert Clark	
Cllr Bob Russell	

It was RESOLVED that the Environment Committee be appointed as follows:

Environment Committee	
Northern Works	Southern Works
Mr Paul Holmes (Chairman)	Mr Keith Casswell
Mr Roger Welberry	Mr Vic Barker
Mr Richard Leggott	Mr John Atkinson
Mr Peter Robinson	Mr Richard Wray
Cllr Colin Brotherton	

It was RESOLVED that the Audit & Risk Committee be appointed as follows:

Audit & Risk Committee	
Cllr Michael Brookes (Chairman)	Mr Vic Barker
Mr William Ash	Mr Richard Leggott
Mr Nick Scott	Cllr Richard Austin
Cllr Bob Russell	

It was RESOLVED that the Culverts & Bridges Committee be appointed as follows:

Culverts & Bridges Committee	
Mr Jonathan Fowler (Chairman)	Mr Peter Robinson
Mr William Ash	Mr Vic Barker
Mr Paul Holmes	Mr Richard Leggott
Cllr Paul Skinner	

The Board all AGREED to these appointments.

844 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES -
Agenda Item 6

(a) Northern Works Committee

On the proposition of Mr R Leggott, seconded by Mr P Robinson, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Chairman of the Northern Works Committee for the next three years.

(b) Southern Works Committee

On the proposition of Mr J Wray, seconded by Mr V Barker, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M Rollinson be appointed Chairman of the Southern Works Committee for the next three years.

(c) Environment Committee

On the proposition of Mr J Wray, seconded by Mr J Fowler, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Chairman of the Environment Committee for the next three years.

(d) Audit & Risk Committee

On the proposition of Cllr P Bedford, seconded by Cllr C Brotherton, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr M Brookes be appointed Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee for the next three years.

(e) Culverts & Bridges Committee

On the proposition of Mr J Wray, seconded by Mr K Casswell, it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr J Fowler be appointed Chairman of the Culverts & Bridges Committee for the next three years.

(f) Ex-Officio Members

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, are ex-officio members of all Committees they are not appointed to, with the exception of the Audit & Risk Committee.

(g) Nominations Committee

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee are appointed to the Nominations Committee.

The Chairman then stated that at the next Northern & Southern Works Committee meeting, members would vote on a Vice Chairman for their respective Committee.

The Chairman stated that the Chairmen and Members of the Northern and Southern Works Committees should bring forward names of possible co-opted members from local people whom might have an interest in being members of their area Committees.

845 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 7

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 17th June 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was agreed that they should be signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

846 MINUTES OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 9(a)

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Nominations Committee held on the 3rd June 2015, copies of which had been circulated and were considered. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received. There were no matters arising.

847 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 9(b)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2015, copies of which had been circulated and were considered. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

848 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Operation of the Environment Agency Black Sluice Pumps - Minute No 804(a)

Mr R Leggott asked if the training had been given to the two members of the BSIDB staff to operate alongside the EA staff at the Black Sluice Pumping Station pumps.

The Chief Executive responded that he had discussed this with Environment Agency officers at head office who admitted that no locally based officers had mentioned the offer to them.

(b) External Auditors Opinion - Minute No 806

The Finance Manager reported that the external auditors had declared a clean audit and there were no matters to bring to the Boards attention.

(c) Internal Audit Strategy and Audit Plan - Minute No 808

The Finance Manager stated that the internal auditor Mr D Gowing had attended the Audit & Risk Committee meeting. He summarised the strategy and he will be reviewing rating security and backups, as well as grant in aid applications.

The Finance Manager stated that the Executive Committee had reviewed the Internal Audit Strategy and Audit Plan and recommended it to the Board. The Board RESOLVED that the recommendation be accepted.

849 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY POLICY - Agenda Item 9(b)(iii)

The Finance Manager presented the amended policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 10th April 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Management Strategy Policy be adopted.

850 EMPLOYEES CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY - Agenda Item 9(b)(iv)

The Finance Manager presented the amended policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 22nd September 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Employees Code of Conduct Policy be adopted.

851 FRAUD & CORRUPTION POLICY - Agenda Item 9(b)(v)

The Finance Manager presented the amended policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 22nd September 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Fraud & Corruption Policy be adopted.

852 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY - Agenda Item 9(b)(vi)

The Finance Manager presented the amended policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 22nd September 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Members Code of Conduct Policy be adopted.

853 WHISTLE BLOWING CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CODE POLICY - Agenda Item 9(b)(vii)

The Finance Manager presented the amended policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 22nd September 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Whistle Blowing Confidential Reporting Code Policy be adopted.

854 OFFICERS CAR LOAN POLICY - Agenda Item 9(b)(viii)

The Finance Manager presented the amended policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 22nd September 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Officers Car Loan Policy be adopted.

855 NEW POLICY - NEAR MISS REPORTING - Agenda Item 9(b)(ix)

The Finance Manager presented the new Near Miss Reporting Policy which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 22nd September 2015.

The Board RESOLVED that the Near Miss Reporting Policy be adopted.

855 Cont.....

The Chairman thanked the Audit & Risk Committee on behalf of the Members of the Board for all their due diligence. He stated that the internal auditor recommends this good practice approach by this Committee.

856 MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 9(c)

The Northern Works Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 7th October 2015, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

857 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Daffodil Crop - Minute No 820(y)(ii)

The Chairman requested the assistance of Mr J Fowler and Mr V Barker, both agreed to help investigate the damage to this crop once the flowers are harvested in spring 2016.

(b) Black Sluice Catchment Strategy - Minute No 823(c)

The Chief Executive updated the Members on the consultation report that he received yesterday. The public and interested parties had stated 75% in support of the BSIDB preferred options for the Black Sluice pumping station, lower & upper catchments.

The consultation report is to be presented at the Lincolnshire County Council Scrutiny Committee and the next meeting of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee. There is the possibility to explore other funding opportunities of which the EA are not able to apply.

There is a proposal to appoint a funding manager for a limited period, an expert in this field to gain funding from other sources, to open other avenues and complete/process applications to obtain this additional funding. They are pleased that now there will be a joint way forward in the consultation process. The Environment Agency are prepared to offer maintenance works to be completed through the public sector agreement.

The Chief Executive reported that the specialist engineers were due to visit the Black Sluice Pumping Station tomorrow but had been cancelled due to a visit by two Senior DEFRA officials. The specialist engineers will investigate all five pumps very soon to ascertain the extent of the damage and machinery repair costs.

(c) Boston Barrier Hub - Minute No 823(b)

The Chief Executive reminded members that an open invitation has been given to attend the forum at the Boston Barrier Hub off Marsh Lane. An email will be sent out to all members with a view to organising a visit.

857 Cont.....

(d) Spring Works Committee Inspections - Minute No 827(b)

Mr V Barker raised concern regarding both Works Committee Inspections being on the same day. The inspection tour is very important to view the works and maintenance in the area. Cllr B Russell added his concern that the inspection would be rushed. The dates will be reviewed in Agenda Item 16.

(e) Co-opted Members on Works Committees

Mr V Barker added and Cllr B Russell agreed to the point raised regarding additional co-opted members, that members should encourage ladies in the farming and local community to join. This to be raised by the Chairmen of the Northern & Southern Works Committees.

858 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 9(d)

The Executive Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2015, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

859 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Members Refresher Training Session - Minute No 831(c)

The Chief Executive stated that the training session went very well. The members agreed that this should be introduced to be carried out on each election year. All AGREED.

The Chief Executive added that if members felt elements that could be extended on or discussed more please let him know.

(b) Period 6 Management Accounts & Forecast - Minute No 832

The Finance Manager outlined the period 6 management accounts;

- Distress warrants have been granted for ratepayers remaining on the court list
- Schemes progressing as expected
- A claim has been submitted to the EA for the Wyberton catchment improvement scheme resulting from the tidal surge breach
- Pumping station maintenance is within budget
- Insurance premium has been negotiated down by £4,500 with exclusion of sub structures except for Wyberton & Kirton Marsh
- Drain maintenance will be on budget
- Interest rate reduced at Monmouthshire Building Society to 1.1%

(c) First Draft of the 10 Year Estimates - Minute No 833

The Finance Manager stated that the 10 year estimated figures are based on the agreed penny rate increases. The Executive Committee constantly review this to encourage a 20% reserve figure.

(d) The 8 Year Plant Estimates - Minute No 834

(i) Unimog

The Chief Executive stated that currently the Unimog is off the road with engine problems. In the plant estimates it is down for replacement in 2017/18, with the replacement of the engine at a cost of c£20,000 this should extend its life for 5 years until 2020. The Unimog is unique and the most important specialist piece of equipment the Board has, it carries out a very important role.

Upon review of the plant estimates it will enable a review of the vibrating piling hammer and other minor items to be brought forward in the plant estimates for the Boards approval in the New Year.

(ii) Twiga

The Operations Manager stated that the Twiga has a problem with its mounting bracket that holds the arm whilst travelling on the road. The manufactures are aware of the issue and it is due to be replaced under warranty.

Cllr Mrs J Harrison asked if the mounting bracket was then under an extended warranty from when it is replaced rather than the date aligned with the purchase of the Twiga. The Operations Manager will ask the manufacturer.

(e) ADA Subscriptions - Minute No 838(d)

The Chief Executive highlighted to the Board an increase in national ADA subscriptions by 5% next year. The members AGREED that ADA provide a beneficial service to the Board.

860 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON PROPOSED SOLAR PANELS - Agenda Item 10

The Finance Manager presented slides detailing current installations:

Swineshead Pumping Station

- 4KW installation
- £6,635.91 income received in 46 months
- Annual average return = 13.22% (without inflation)
- Estimated return period 7.57 years

Swineshead Office

- 49KW installation
- £5,208.08 income with estimated £2,835.00 electricity used
- Total estimated savings = £8,043.08
- Annual average return = 13.70% (without inflation)
- Estimated return period 7.30 years

The following table shows pumping stations in the range for recommended installations of solar panels:

Pumping Station	Pumps	Install Size KW	Install Cost	Predicted Return				Total	Annual Investment Return	
				1 to 5 Years	6 to 10 Years	11 to 15 Years	16 to 20 Years			
DONINGTON N. INGS	3 / grav	9	£ 11,126	£ 7,522	£ 8,335	£ 9,205	£ 10,191	£ 35,253	15.84%	
CHAIN BRIDGE	3 / grav	9	£ 11,141	£ 7,522	£ 8,335	£ 9,205	£ 10,191	£ 35,253	15.82%	
WYBERTON MARSH	3	9	£ 11,126	£ 7,522	£ 8,335	£ 9,205	£ 10,191	£ 35,253	15.84%	
GREAT HALE	3 / grav	10.5	£ 12,272	£ 8,776	£ 9,725	£ 10,739	£ 11,889	£ 41,129	16.76%	
HOLLAND FEN	3 / grav	8.5	£ 9,979	£ 5,830	£ 6,461	£ 7,134	£ 7,899	£ 27,324	13.69%	
COOKS LOCK	3 / grav	7.5	£ 9,345	£ 5,171	£ 5,730	£ 6,327	£ 7,005	£ 24,233	12.97%	
GOSBERTON	3 / grav	5	£ 7,633	£ 4,179	£ 4,631	£ 5,114	£ 5,661	£ 19,585	12.83%	
BLACK HOLE	3 / grav	7	£ 8,718	£ 4,826	£ 5,348	£ 5,906	£ 6,538	£ 22,618	12.97%	
								£ -		
HECKINGTON	2	5	£ 7,633	£ 4,179	£ 4,631	£ 5,114	£ 5,661	£ 19,585	12.83%	
DAMFORD	2	4	£ 6,898	£ 3,575	£ 3,955	£ 4,361	£ 4,820	£ 16,711	12.11%	
DOWSBY FEN	2 / grav	5	£ 7,633	£ 4,179	£ 4,631	£ 5,114	£ 5,661	£ 19,585	12.83%	
DYKE FEN	2 / grav	5	£ 7,881	£ 4,179	£ 4,631	£ 5,114	£ 5,661	£ 19,585	12.43%	
			84.5	£ 111,385	£ 67,460	£ 74,748	£ 82,538	£ 91,368	£ 316,114	14.19%

- In addition Chain Bridge pumping station has a flat roof, therefore the scheme to replace with pitch roof will need to be brought forward before installation.
- Dyke Fen pumping station roof albeit flat is suitable to take the solar panel as is.
- EPC regulations apply differently to pumping stations with toilets.
- Insurers to the Board indicated that risk is low therefore premium negative.
- Installers to guarantee installation by 31st December 2015.

The Board members discussed capital to be reinvested in reserves to cover initial investment. The Chief Executive stated that further investigation into wind power will be looked into in the future. It was RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

861 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 11

The Finance Manager presented the Risk Register which is tabled at each Board meeting.

The Board reviewed item 8.5 cyber attack and the Finance Manager reported that a new firewall had been installed and staff have been reminded the procedure regarding opening of unknown attachments.

861 Cont.....

A quotation was received for £3,500 to insure the risk. The Board RESOLVED to not insure the risk.

862 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON FINANCE ADMIN AND RATING - Agenda Item 12

(a) Drainage Rate Account 3593 - Gosberton Clough

The Board AGREED to write off the sum of £693.39 in respect of drainage rate account No 3593.

(b) Drainage Rate Account 2445 - Gosberton Clough

The Finance Manager stated that as the property has been vacant since January 2015 the assessment has defaulted back to the owner, as the occupier of the land. The property is being advertised for sale with vacant possession. The Finance Manager suggested seeking a legal opinion but the Board was confident that the Officers were suitably experienced to make the decision.

Under section 49 of the Land Drainage Act the Board AGREED that as the owner is advertising vacant possession of the property then no tenancy agreement is in place. The Board AGREED that drainage rate recovery action is to proceed in the usual way.

(c) Drainage Rate Account 2808 - Garden Centre, Pinchbeck

It is recommended that the value be reduced to include 3.16 acres of land only, at £75 per acre, due to the remainder being subject to business rates giving a total valuation of £237 back dated to 1st April 2015. This would then require a write off of £716.47 for the current year.

The Board AGREED to write off the sum of £716.47 in respect of drainage rate account No 2808.

863 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ADA LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH - Agenda Item 13

Copies of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch were circulated with the Agenda for information. Mr R Leggott highlighted the concerns of ADA regarding the Environment Agency demaining. Environment Agency Officers have contacted a number of IDBs with a list of main rivers which are proposed to be demained and concerns were aired by many boards as the cost of demaining would rest with them and the total sum could run into millions. The EA Officers stated that if IDBs were not prepared to take on these main rivers they could revert to riparian ownership.

At this point Cllr Mrs J Harrison left the meeting.

864 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY - Agenda Item 14

The Operations Manager presented to the Board the annual report on health and safety stating that Cope Safety Management are now on their second year of their management contract to act as Health & Safety Advisors to the Board and it is going very well.

The Operations Manager reported that four employees have been newly appointed and they will be trained over the next few months. Cllr N Welton asked what gender makes up the workforce, the Operations Manager responded that all operational staff are male. The Board operates an open recruitment policy and requirements are based on applicant's qualifications.

It was RESOLVED that the Health and Safety Report be approved and adopted.

865 REPORTS - Agenda Item 15

(a) Monthly Accounts - Agenda Item 15(a)

The Board RESOLVED that the Board's monthly accounts which included June to September 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

(b) Schedule of Consents - Agenda Item 15(b)

The Board RESOLVED that the schedule of consents for byelaw relaxations, culvert consents, development contributions, tile drainage consents and extended area consents issued from June to September 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

(c) Rainfall - Agenda Item 15(c)

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

The Board RESOLVED that these reports be noted.

866 TO CONFIRM DATES OF MEETINGS - Agenda Item 16

The Members discussed and adjusted the dates for the separate Works Committee inspections. The following dates of meetings were AGREED.

Day	Date	Time	Committee
Tuesday	15 December 2015	10am	Executive Committee
Wednesday	27 January 2016	2pm	Executive Committee - to approve budgets
Friday	12 February 2016	2pm	Board - seal rate before 15 Feb
Wednesday	02 March 2016	tbc	Southern Work Committee
Wednesday	16 March 2016	tbc	Northern Works Committee
Wednesday	06 April 2016	2pm	Bridges & Culverts
Wednesday	20 April 2016	2pm	Audit & Risk Committee

Day	Date	Time	Committee
Wednesday	04 May 2016	2pm	Environment
Wednesday	18 May 2016	2pm	Executive - to approve accounts
Wednesday	15 June 2016	2pm	Board - approve accounts before 30 Jun
Wednesday	14 September 2016	2pm	Executive
Wednesday	28 September 2016	2pm	Audit & Risk Committee
Wednesday	12 October 2016	2pm	Joint Works Committees
Wednesday	02 November 2016	2pm	Board
Wednesday	14 December 2016	2pm	Executive

867 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 17(a) RWE Triton Knoll Project

The project is at the Planning Inspectorate Examination stage for the Development Consent Order (DCO). The Board is in negotiations with RWE regarding a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), where it is hoped that agreement can be reached between the 3 IDB's affected, along with the EA, regarding Protective Provisions contained within the DCO. These provisions will allow the IDBs and the EA to still have their permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 which are being dis-applied under the DCO.

There are two particular issues which have yet to be agreed:

1. Provisions for future improvements to watercourses – a distance of 2.0 metres + the cable safety distance (900mm) below the hard bed level (to ODN) below both EA main river and IDB-maintained watercourses has been agreed for any future improvements. This will allow both vertical and lateral improvements, but will also allow for any changes to legislation should the safety distance from the cables be increased. However, the EA and IDB's have also requested a 2.9m distance below ordinary watercourses to allow for any future adoption which may be required for developments etc. This has been more difficult to agree with RWE as they believe that this distance would be prohibitive and would not be "cost-effective". RWE have offered a distance of 1.9m (1.0 metres + the 900m safety distance) as a compromise.

2. Restrictive covenants – RWE are looking to place restrictions on land owners and any other interested parties regarding works that cannot take place within the area of the underground cables. The restrictions quoted appear to place the EA and IDBs in a position where they would be unable to carry out works on their respective assets. Clarification has been requested from RWE and their land agents regarding this issue, and although RWE have verbally stated that our operations would not be affected, written confirmation has been requested.

867 (a) Cont.....

RWE have stated that they will ensure that this is ascertained, but formal confirmation has yet to be provided.

The Chief Executive stated that along with land agent Robert Hurst, Witham 4th IDB and Lindsey Marsh IDB, it has been agreed to appoint David Altaras (Barrister) with experience in compulsory acquisition to attend the public hearing.

RWE have changed their definition of expenses charged for contribution towards costs regarding own time and sundries, solicitors and including QC and statute in place, to cover reasonable amount obligations they are putting on the Board.

The Chief Executive stated that in a few weeks time after various meetings an indication from our legal team would be forthcoming regarding future costs to the Boards.

(b) 9 metre Byelaw Issues

(i) Amber Farm Barn

An application has been received to renovate the existing barns at Amber Farm progressed in two stages. The applicant proposes to renovate the two storey barn first and demolish the single storey barn with a view to rebuilding at a later date using raft foundations.

The Board's officers have reviewed the proposed specifications, and have agreed the works in principle. The Board RESOLVED to agree with the recommendation.

(ii) Walnut House, Threekingham

The owner has applied for a relaxation of the Boards Byelaw to allow an extension to his property. The existing property is located 3.75m from the pipe centreline. The Chief Executive presented a slide detailing the position and the proposed dig base foundation of the extension to be at the invert level of the pipeline.

Due to the high risk of flooding in this area the Board RESOLVED to agree a condition be placed on the property that should the existing pipeline require replacement any time in the future then a new open watercourse would be cut through the field north west of the site. The property owner would be responsible for the full costs associated with the drain realigning and land loss. Should the Board carry out future routine pipe replacement works these works and costs would be covered by the Board.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:40.