

## BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

### MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at 2pm

#### Members

Chairman - \* Mr K C Casswell

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

\* Member Present

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

#### 1028 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Atkinson, Cllr C Brotherton, Cllr R Clark, Cllr Mrs J Harrison and Cllr P Skinner. Cllr N Welton was a non-attendee.

#### 1029 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

##### (a) List of Consents

A declaration of interest was received from Mr N Scott and Mr P Holmes with regard to Minute 1052(b).

#### 1030 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was agreed that they should be signed as a true record.

1031 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 4

(a) ELS Buffers - Minute 966(c)

The Chief Executive stated regarding the Entry Level Stewardship scheme and clarification for ratepayer's, that this is with ADA and is awaiting a national directive which once received will be circulated.

(b) Culvert & Bridges - Minute 970(a)

The Chief Executive stated regarding his request to call an extra ordinary meeting. The Culvert & Bridges Replacement Policy has been reviewed by the Officers and is currently with the Culvert & Bridges Committee Members. He is awaiting feedback, once the feedback has been assessed then he will speak to the Chairman to decide if a meeting should be called in order to prepare the policy to be presented to the Board.

(c) Leasing the Fishing Rights for Borrow Pit 2 at Bourne North Fen, Twenty - Minute 980(a)

The Chief Executive stated that the Fishing Syndicate interested in leasing the Borrow Pit 2 are not pressurising the Board to take up the lease. The agreement states that the first 12 months would be a lease free or non-involvement proposal. He added that he has been in frequent discussions with the Fishing Syndicate and they are quite happy to delay for 12 months. He proposes to give a full report at the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Board Meeting.

(d) ADA Pay & Conditions Committee - Minute 982(c)

The Chairman stated that during the last ADA Lincolnshire meeting, both the Chairman and Secretary of the ADA Pay & Conditions committee resigned. A new committee is to be formed and will be made up of a Senior Officer and either a Chairman or someone nominated by their respective Board for each one of the Lincolnshire IDBs. Mr K C Casswell proposed himself and the Finance Manager to represent the Black Sluice IDB on this newly formed committee. The Chairman stated that Welland & Deeping IDB have decided not to participate in this new committee and also are not paying the 0.4% one-off non-consolidated additional payment. All other IDBs in Lincolnshire have accepted making the payment, as agreed and stated in the letter sent to the Union.

Mr P Holmes asked if any other IDBs had indicated that they were not going to be part of the new committee. The Chairman answered that all other Lincolnshire IDBs will be involved in this new committee. One board had indicated a concern that the committee could be too large but as there is no alternative avenue we are going to see how it progresses.

He added that hopefully this new committee can secure a long term agreement with the Unions similar to which was in place a few years ago using a formula linked to The Times newspaper; the average weekly earnings.

1032 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5

The Executive Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

1033 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Drainage Rate Account 2781 - Minute 995(3)

The Finance Manager stated that this account is for Bernard Matthews who went into administration on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Bernard Matthews new company has been bought and the drainage rates have been apportioned. Therefore, the old company Bernard Matthews drainage rate charge is £8,815.75 which claim has been submitted to the administrators, however due to the amount of debt and the value of assets left in the company it is unlikely that this will be recovered. The Bernard Matthews new company apportioned drainage rate is £21,113.02 and is now at first reminder stage.

(b) External Audit Report Annual Return - Minute 1002(d)

The Finance Manager explained that a copy of the Annual Return has not been included in the agenda papers. He stated that it was presented to both the Executive and Audit & Risk Committee. Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants have signed it as completed as required with no comments.

1034 RATING REPORT - Agenda Item 5(a)(i)

The Finance Manager stated that, due to the number of building developments in the area in the last year, currently a total of approximately 52 acres of land in just the Boston Borough Council district will result in an increase in the special levy next year of just over £11,000. This is without any of the Q1 Development which will be approximately 64 - 66 acres and could be an additional C£18,000 to the special levy also this year if the houses are to be built before the penny rate in December.

Mr V Barker asked why has a portion of drainage rate no 2445 been written off from 2014/15? The Finance Manager answered that there was a dispute over the date when the occupier and/or the owner were responsible for paying the drainage rates so the Chairman of the Board agreed a date in order to finalise the dispute.

1035 REVIEW OF 2016/17 SCHEME BUDGETS - Agenda Item 5(a)(ii)

The Finance Manager stated there is an increase of £30,000 re budget which is made up of £20,000 which was received for FDGiA grant last year which was not spent, and a £10,000 overspend on culverts, which is why the Culverts & Bridges Replacement Policy was suspended at the last meeting.

1036 INSURANCE COVER FOR BOARD MEMBERS OVER 75 YEARS - Agenda Item 5(a)(iii)

The Chairman stated that this is an insurance cover to be paid for Members of the Board in any event of injury whilst attending a Board meeting or inspection etc.

The Chairman asked how many members were over the age of 75 years; the Finance Manager answered that there is one member currently and four members turning 75 years within the next 12 months.

The Finance Manager clarified that members of the Board are covered by Public Liabilities Insurance for attending the Board. This policy will be an additional policy to have in case members are injured whilst on Board duties and it will pay out for additional support, rehabilitation and monies in the form of compensation.

Mr R Leggott asked if Members could be insured personally already and the Board could be placed in the position of doubly insured. The Finance Manager answered that this would need to be asked on an individual basis. Cllr M Brookes added that if Members are on the Board from their District Council they could be covered under the District Council insurance. He added that these facts should be collated before a decision is made.

The Chairman asked if Members wanted the Finance Manager to request a quote up to 80 years old. The Chief Executive added that it would be prudent to look into this further.

The Chairman confirmed and members agreed that the Finance Manager should look to obtain a quotation.

1037 PUMPING STATION GROUNDSMAN - Agenda Item 5(a)(iv)

Mr R Wray asked is the £31,000 per annum figure for one person or two, stating that he had noticed that when maintenance is carried out by external contractors, there is usually two men. The Chief Executive answered that the Board employ two larger contractors to maintain the pumping stations, and irrespective of how many members of staff or workforce they use, the cost is at a set rate. The total of the agreed rates calculates out to £33,000 for all the other contractors the Board uses. He explained that the Officers had put a detailed report together and the Chief Executive believed during the summer months the same amount of work can be achieved with one employee using the specialist equipment.

The Finance Manager added that the employee will be available for duties for 38 hours a week, 46 weeks of the year.

1038 MINUTES OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(b)

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee moved that all recommendations are adopted. The Chairman of the Board asked members for their agreement, all agreed.

He added that the Audit & Risk Committee do a very valuable job and keep a lot of work away from the Board and asked for a vote of thanks.

1039 POLICY ON RELAXATION OF THE BOARDS BYELAW NO 10 (THE 9 METRE BYELAW) INCLUDING STANDARD CONDITIONS - Agenda Item 5(b)(i)

The Chief Executive presented the amended Policy on Relaxation of the Boards Byelaw No 10 (the 9 metre byelaw) including standard conditions on pages 54 to 59, which were reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016. He stated that the amendments are detailed in red.

The Board RESOLVED that the Policy on Relaxation of the Boards Byelaw No 10 (the 9 metre byelaw) including standard conditions be adopted.

1040 TOWERGATE INSURANCE REPORT - Agenda Item 5(b)(ii)

The Finance Manager stated that the Audit & Risk Committee had very lengthy discussions between themselves before and after Mr Cooke (Towergate Insurance) arrived. The Finance Manager believed that it was very useful and the Committee gleaned a lot of information. He then summarised the six items for consideration in Towergates' Insurance report on pages 60 to 65 which the Committee had looked at in detail to consider recommendation to the Board to extend or change the insurance cover.

Insurance of the underground structures under the buildings cover

The Finance Manager stated that the underground structures at pumping stations had been reviewed 2/3 years ago whilst insured with NFU. When NFU discovered the Board may be underinsured they gave the Board a renewal premium of c£25,000 per year, at that time the Board decided to insure only Wyberton and Kirton Marsh pumping stations for underground structures. Upon renewal the Board insured through Towergate Insurance, their report for consideration by the Board was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee. The Committee had a lot of discussion as to whether these pumping stations should be fully insured and it was the Committees conclusion to recommend to the Board that all of the underground structures should be insured for the additional premium of £4,714.

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee added that Members considered that it takes all the doubt out of any possible claims around what constitutes the sub structure and what constitutes the above ground structure. The premium is reasonable to cover all the pumping station sub structures for £28 million.

The Chairman added that it has been very useful to have Cllr B Russell's experience in being employed in that line of work. The Committee was grateful for his advice.

Terrorism Risks Insurance

The Finance Manager stated that the Committee believed that the Board was at a reasonably low risk and for a premium of £4,129 it would not be value for money.

### Fidelity Guarantee

The Finance Manager stated that the Fidelity Guarantee limit increased from £600,000 to £1,000,000.

### Management Liability Insurance

The Finance Manager stated the Management Liability cover be increased from £2 million to £3 million with an additional cover for Employment Law Protection of £1 million and that actually the change from our previous insurers to Towergate insurers resulted in a reduction in this premium.

### Professional Indemnity Insurance

The Finance Manager stated the Professional Indemnity insurance cover be increased from £1 million to £2 million cover and that would be a reduction in this year's Towergate premium. He added that it had not been taken out with Towergate previously as there was an overlap with the NFU policy.

### Deception and Crime Insurance

The Finance Manager stated that the Board should obtain a quotation for the combined Deception Crime insurance which also has a cyber element included.

#### 1041 INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY & AUDIT PLAN - Agenda Item 5(b)(iii)

The Finance Manager reported that no items have been requested by the Audit & Risk Committee for review by the Internal Auditor. He concluded that due to the level of assurance the Internal Auditor will be reviewing over 3.5 days and is due to attend on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.

#### 1042 POLICY FOR THE CONTROL OF RAGWORT - Agenda Item 5(b)(iv)

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the amended Policy for the Control of Ragwort on pages 70 & 71, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016. He stated that the amendments are detailed in red.

The Board RESOLVED that the Policy for the Control of Ragwort be adopted.

#### 1043 POLICY ON LAND DRAINS DISCHARGING INTO BOARD MAINTAINED WATERCOURSES - Agenda Item 5(b)(v)

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the amended Policy on Land Drains discharging into Board Maintained Watercourses on page 72, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The Chief Executive stated that the amendments are detailed in red, the main change being the change to add the word "maintained watercourses" to emphasis they are not owned by the Board. The Committee also removed the word "tile" and replaced it with "land".

The Board RESOLVED that the Policy on Land Drains discharging into Board Maintained Watercourses be adopted.

1044 POLICY FOR THE CONTROL OF RABBITS, RATS & OTHER RODENTS IN BOARD MAINTAINED WATERCOURSES - Agenda Item 5(b)(vi)

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the amended Policy for the Control of Rabbits, Rats & other Rodents in Board Maintained Watercourses on page 73, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The Board RESOLVED that the Policy for the Control of Rabbits, Rats & other Rodents in Board Maintained Watercourses be adopted.

1045 GIFTS & HOSPITALITY POLICY - Agenda Item 5(b)(vii)

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the amended Gifts & Hospitality Policy on page 74, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016. He stated that the amendments are detailed in red,

Mr V Barker asked where the Gifts & Hospitality register can be viewed; the Finance Manager answered that it is kept in the safe in server room. If a member wished to view it, currently there are zero entries in the book.

The Board RESOLVED that the Gifts & Hospitality Policy be adopted.

1046 MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(c)

The Southern Works Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

1047 Q1 DEVELOPMENT DISCHARGE APPLICATION - Agenda Item 5(c)(i)

The Chief Executive presented a slide with a plan for the Q1 development, he stated that Officers and himself have had meetings with Chestnut Homes (the developer) for this site with regards proposals to discharge surface water. Chestnut Homes are proposing to split the site into three segments and their proposal is to discharge from those three segments at 10 litres per second per hectare into;

- the stadium side site into a LCC Highways maintained culvert
- the north and south site into a Board maintained watercourse

The Chief Executive requested consent from the Board that subject to these conditions the discharge along the lines identified is accepted and the conditions will be:

- the Board request and receives a digital site plan for a third party professional to check and calculate the total site area along with the total impermeable area, which are two key significant figures with regards to the discharge rates;
- that we request and receive the digital copy of the micro-drainage calculations for the third party professional to check and confirm the proposed discharge rate ie the calculations of the two areas and the volumes which are collected off that site

are calculated in this micro-drainage software package confirm that the 10 litres per second per hectare runoff is equated and confirmed.

The Chief Executive stated that Chestnut Homes have some initial figures produced using our previous unrestricted discharge rate which was £74,000 per hectare, the upto date figure is £75,000 per hectare and the Officers will be seeking confirmation that Chestnut Homes accept and agree that. Subject to those agreements being put in place the actual revised surface water development fee will be £113,691.36 plus VAT.

The Chief Executive stated that this is a significant development fee contribution, he then added that there are significant works that the Officers want to undertake from the discharge point at the roundabout and south along the A16 to the Towns Drain and the southern boundary of the site which will include a realignment of the drain on the Wyberton playing field area.

Mr Rollinson asked a question regarding the discharge on the stadium side into a highways drain, the Chief Executive confirmed yes the surface water is discharged into a highways drain alongside parallel to the A16 which in turn discharges into the Towns Drain on the east side of the A16. Mr Holmes reiterated that this drain did not look as if it had been best maintained. The Chief Executive responded that this channel would be looked at from a drainage board point of view of taking control and managing that water, this area of the Towns Drain is arguably on the back of the Wyberton and Chain Bridge system so water can be pulled from both directions so geographically it is in a very good position for the Board.

Mr Casswell asked if LCC Highways will improve that drain, the Chief Executive responded that he did not think there were any monies involved in increasing the flows on that eastern side.

Mr Holmes believed that this dyke is full of everything, brambles, trees, rubbish, he clarified that the drain is piped up to the roundabout and from that point through to the town drain is full of overgrown bushes.

Cllr Austin asked are there any SUDs arrangements for the stadium segment there is obviously going to be a lot of roof space and tarmac, what is the arrangement for surface water runoff. The Chief Executive responded as part of this process the proposed agreement, is for himself to go back to Chestnut Homes and obtain the exact details from their drawings and using a third party consultant to obtain the calculation for the Boards SUDS discharge calculations.

Mr Leggott asked if the external assessor says that these are not accurate, what is the Boards position, the Chief Executive responded that the Board do not sign a consent to discharge.

Mr Leggott then asked when everything is calculated correctly there will be external consultant's costs. The Chief Executive responded that no the Officers are currently developing those costs as part of the funding budget.

He explained currently a reduced level invert pipe is already being constructed under the roundabout, he stated a proposal to highways has been submitted to implement an open drain from the roundabout to the towns drain.



He pointed out alongside the "foodstore" site on the plan there is a layby with additional land and the Officers are hoping to construct an open drain. Unfortunately, during the process of piping the drain and the construction of the A16 bypass they planted trees over the pipe which have grown. The Officers don't know if there are any permissions in the planning, Chestnut Homes don't believe there are, about removing these trees because we would like to run the new open drain to offer unlimited volumes and transfers along the same line as the existing pipe. He added that the costing study has been carried out as enhancement to the existing town drain from the south west corner of the site all the way through to the A16, the proposed new drain shown as a pale blue outline on the plan on page 88, unfortunately there is an existing water main in that area which the Officers doubt will affect it plus some large overhead electrical pylons.

Mr Leggott carried on with his question as to the high cost to the Board to carry out these additional drain improvements in dealing with this development's surface water. The Chief Executive responded that the process of the current development fee contribution is to enhance the offsite watercourses and adequately take away that water into existing systems and beyond. He concluded that he believed the additional works that are proposed will fall within the development fee contribution but until those calculations are forthcoming, the Officers cannot know. Mr Leggott asked if they can go back to Chestnut Homes and request further funding, the Chief Executive answered no.

The Chief Executive concluded that when the budgetary costs for these improvements are calculated and if they fall above the development fee figure the Officers will approach the Board to discuss where the additional funding can be budgeted.

The Chief Executive then outlined a proposal regarding the Development Fee Contribution, stating another IDB have introduced a simplified development fee process which he is proposing to bring to the Executive Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 for this Board to adopt. This would contribute over double the fees that we currently attach to developments. It will then be in place for future developments but unfortunately not for developments already underway. He concluded that it will include a section regarding additional works like expanding and realigning drains which comes from large developments like the Q1.

The Finance Manager added that delegation of authority for this size of development is not within the Chief Executives' terms therefore the Board is required to agree to proceed on the above proposed basis. The Chairman asked the Members if they agreed to the proposal for Q1 development on a 10 litres per second per hectare – all agreed.

The Chairman then concluded that the surface water goes through a limiter which limits discharge so that no more than 10 litres per second per hectare can come through the system on each of those segments where surface water flows.

The Chief Executive concluded prior to the implementation of "SUDs" there were no restriction of flows of surface water from sites plus there were no development fees.

1048 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 6

The Chairman presented the risk register on page 89, he added that he had met with the Officers before the meeting and discussed the risk level for item "1.5 In operating machinery to maintain watercourses" - in view of the recent events. The Finance Manager explained that currently item 1.5 is Impact - medium and Likelihood - low giving it a score of 2, he proposed that it remain as Impact - medium and increased the Likelihood to medium which will then give a score of 4 and he suggested that it is reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The Chairman asked Members and they agreed to this increase in risk score for 1.5 – In operating machinery to maintain watercourses should be amended to Impact – medium, Likelihood – medium with a score of 4. All agreed.

1049 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON FINANCE - Agenda Item 7

(a) Period 06 Management Accounts

The Finance Manager presented the Period 6 Management accounts Summary on page 90, stating:

- Drainage rates - (£27,500) which equates to Bernard Matthews for both companies.
- The first half of the year the solar panel income is performing much better than originally estimated.
- Schemes has a slight negative this had been agreed within the budget scheme increases detailed previously.
- Drain maintenance an item which has been of some concern which is now pulling back into line and the Officers believed was a time phasing issue whereby last year a lot of the Wyberton works were early on in the year, cutting and drain maintenance was started early this year due to the exceptional weed growth.

Mr Barker believes regarding the solar power income, it will be high in the first quarters but the next coming quarters it will be considerably lower adding that it should be taken as an average for a full year – the Finance Manager explained that it has been phased to allow for that over the year.

The Finance Manager then presented the balance sheet on page 92, he highlighted the balances for the Natwest Reserve Account stating that when it was first opened it had an interest rate of 1.4% which attracted, on a £750,000 average balance about £10,500 interest per year. The Natwest notified us last month that they will be reducing the interest rate further from 0.15% to 0.01% resulting in an income of £75 a year.

(b) Second Quarter Forecast

The Finance Manager presented the 2015/16 forecast on page 93, highlighting an overspend figure of (£38,000), this equates to (£30,000) in the schemes and (£8,000) drainage rate which is expected to be written off.

1050 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ADA LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH - Agenda Item 8

The Chairman presented a copy of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch minutes which were circulated with the Agenda for information.

(a) Draft Lincolnshire IDBs Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) adoption policy

The Chief Executive explained that this policy has been developed for all IDBs in Lincolnshire and subsequently has been put forward for all IDBs to adopt, he pointed out that several IDBs have already adopted this policy. He added that fortunately it has been put together by BSIDB Officers and this document has moved forward in development from the original draft received. It has been reviewed quite significantly and the favoured draft copy which is on page 99 will be presented to the Board. The Chief Executive stated that the Lincolnshire Lead Flood Authority have requested that the Board adopt this policy.

The Chairman invited questions and asked Members if the Draft Lincolnshire IDBs Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) policy should be adopted. All agreed.

Mr R Leggott stated that he believes that proper consultation at planning stages with IDBs is essential, he noted that within this policy and its terms of conditions there are all sorts of things which could be looked at during the planning stage which would benefit everyone financially and environmentally. He added that he continues to affirm that consultation on these matters through planning departments and asked if this has been raised by Councillors and asked if talks have taken place on this matter with Councillors. Cllr M Brookes responded that it was to be raised with Mark Welsh at Lincolnshire County Council.

Cllr R Austin asked regarding councils for confirmation of a good relationship between the councils and planning departments at county and borough levels. The Chief Executive answered that the Officers deal with many district and/or borough councils and each one is different. He could not confirm that the relationship is unilaterally good, some want a more active role with the Board and some do not. He confirmed that the Officers do not have as much of an active role and would like to be more involved.

Cllr R Austin followed up with another question asking specifically Boston Borough Council role in planning liaison. The Chief Executive answered that because they are more relevant to the Black Sluice the BBC is better than other departments the Board deals with.

1051 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY - Agenda Item 9

The Operations Manager presented to the Board the annual report on health and safety pages 100 – 102. He highlighted to Members of the Board the accidents and a near miss detailed relating to the Twiga accident and the JCB accident. The Operations Manager added that workforce training is outlined on page 101 and compliance details on page 102.

The Chairman invited questions, it was RESOLVED that the Health and Safety Report be approved and adopted.

1052 REPORTS - Agenda Item 10

(a) Monthly Accounts - Agenda Item 10(a)

The Board RESOLVED that the Board's monthly accounts which included June to September 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

(b) Schedule of Consents - Agenda Item 10(b)

Mr N Scott and Mr P Holmes declared an interest in this agenda item.

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents on pages 118 to 120.

(c) Rainfall - Agenda Item 10(c)

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

The Chief Executive added that year on year it is showing an ever decreasing 5-year average, this has been highlighted in the current water resources project.

Mr V Barker asked a question regarding the rolling 25-year average, he suggested that it might be useful to take figures from when the pumps were put in the 1960s and 1970s as a one off report to compare what is happening against today which might give an insight into what is expected from the Boards drains and pumps in the future.

The Chairman then highlighted the figures for June 2016 which resulted from a one off storm. He reported that Swineshead Depot and Black Hole Drove plus the Welland & Deeping had a storm hit which flooded Deeping St Nicholas and missed Pode Hole – he said “it shows these huge storms we are getting now”, he concluded that the Somerset Levels had 10 inches in a similar one off storm.

Mr P Holmes commented that the majority of these figures say about 50% are within 10% of the 25-year average, it's the extreme storms which makes it more difficult to predict pumps and levels.

1053 TO CONFIRM DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2017 - Agenda Item 11

The following dates of meetings where AGREED.

Date	Committee
14 December 2016	Executive Committee
8 February 2017	Board - seal rate before 15 February
1 March 2017	Northern Work Committee
22 March 2017	Southern Works Committee
5 April 2017	Culverts & Bridges Committee
26 April 2017	Audit & Risk Committee

10 May 2017	Environment Committee
24 May 2017	Executive - to approve accounts
14 June 2017	Board - approve accounts before 30 Jun
13 September 2017	Executive Committee
4 October 2017	Audit & Risk Committee
18 October 2017	Joint Works Committees
8 November 2017	Board
13 December 2017	Executive Committee

Mr V Barker asked about the extraordinary meeting to be called for the Culverts & Bridges Committee and asked will it need to be before the Board meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The Chief Executive answered the Chairman of the Culverts & Bridges Committee could call a meeting before the one on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The amended Culverts & Bridges Policy has been sent to Members of that Committee for their responses, bearing in mind that the policy has been withdrawn and there is a significance of publishing the new one.

The Chairman reminded Members that the new policy needs to be in place before the next drainage rates are issued. The Chief Executive answered yes it had been decided to include the new policy in the rating brochure.

The Chairman concluded that it would be advantageous to get a new policy for adoption at the next board meeting.

#### 1054 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 12

##### (a) Glyphosate Chemical Withdrawal

Cllr Austin asked regarding the proposed withdrawal of glyphosate from the market place, if it happens, would it have a significant effect on the Board or the costs of running the Board. The Operations Manager responded the Board has difficulty in what can be used on aquatic plant life to control the weeds. The Officers are finding it ever increasingly difficult to find something that can be used to spray watercourses.

The Chief Executive added that the Black Sluice generally have a very limited if non-existent chemical application to our watercourse, we spray tunnel ends to reduce or to hold back vegetation growth. He explained that other IDBs who have different network river systems whereby it is hard to maintain from the bank side so they see no other option than application directly into the watercourse thankfully it does not apply to the Black Sluice but it could in the future if we are to maintain the South Forty Foot where you cannot reach all parts of the bank we may have to investigate various chemical applications but at this moment in time it does not apply to the Black Sluice.

##### (b) Gosberton Parish Council

Mr V Barker enquired about a letter from Gosberton Parish Council. The Chief Executive responded that he was not going to discuss it as the Board had decided on a course of action regarding the issue of parking vehicles on land adjacent to watercourses.

The Officers will follow the same process the Board previous instructed and use the powers of the Land Drainage Act to make the offender remove the vehicles.

(c) Co-operation with other IDBs

Mr V Barker acknowledged yes we should encourage younger board members onto committees, he believed we should be proactive at looking at amalgamation of boards since farmers are getting more acres so there are less available members, we should be looking to join some boards together. The Chairman responded that this Board has been very proactive in the past and it has got nowhere.

Mr Barker added that whichever board to the north or south, we should go forward and look at some form of cooperation more between boards, perhaps a joint meeting on similar lines to the joint works committee the same thing could be extended to include boards on our boundaries.

Cllr Austin asked has there been any indication how well the amalgamation of chief executive roles at the boards to the north have worked. The Chief Executive reported that it has been announced at the last ADA branch meeting that the current Chief Executive of North East Lindsey IDB is retiring and that board has elected not to replace him but are going to use the services of the Witham 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and Upper Witham IDBs as it is a very small board which contract out most of their site works and it is a way of reducing their costs and overheads.

The Chairman concluded that the Board has a lot of shared boundary and he believed there would not be a great deal of will, Mr M Scott had spoken to them in the past and at that time there was no interest and he did not know if there was any more now.

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