

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
30th May 2018 at 2pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

* Mr W Ash	* Cllr T Ashton
* Mr J Atkinson	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr V Barker	Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Brookes
* Mr P Holmes	* Cllr M Cooper
* Mr R Leggott	* Cllr Mrs C Rylott
* Mr P Robinson	* Cllr B Russell
* Mr M Rollinson	Cllr P Skinner
Mr N J Scott	* Cllr Mrs S Wray
* Mr J R Wray	* Cllr Mrs S Waring

* Member Present

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

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Tom Ashton from Boston Borough Council and Cllr Mrs Susan Wray from South Holland District Council who are both attending their first meeting. The Chairman hoped they enjoy their time on the Board. He stated that there will be an Induction for new Board Members before the next Board meeting which will include all Board Members after the Election.

The Chairman thanked Cllr R Austin, who was also on the Audit & Risk Committee for all he has done for the Board in the times he has served on the Black Sluice IDB. The Chairman stated that he will send a letter to thank him.

The Finance Manager stated he would like to add an agenda item to the meeting:

11(d) – To Approve the Register of Electors

He added that this will need 75% agreement by the Board Members present. The Chairman proposed that this item be added to the agenda, all AGREED.

1282 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence was received from Mr N Scott. Cllr C Brotherton and Cllr P Skinner were non attendees.

1283 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

(a) Drain 27/1 Haconby Fen Culvert 604

A declaration of interest was received from Mr J Atkinson with regard to Minute 1288(a)(ii).

(b) Drain 5/30 Bank Slippage - Amulree, Kirton Holme

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr C Rylott with regard to Minute 1290 (a)(ii).

1284 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 14th February 2018, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

1285 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 4

(a) ADA Model of Land Drainage Byelaws - Minute 1221(b)

Mr R Leggott asked if a response from ADA had been received regarding the Land Drainage Byelaws. The Finance Manager responded that he has received some slight acknowledgements and consultations from Defra and the Defra Lawyers but as it stands at this time the final wording has not been approved by the Defra Lawyers, we are waiting on that before we can get the final approved copy signed. Mr Leggott added that if we miss this opportunity for his suggestions – ‘that it is making it plain that it is the Officers judgement should be taken’ may compromise the Board in the future. The Finance Manager responded that Defra are now taking that on board as well as the initial points raised Defra accepted they have taken the whole of the responses on board and the Officers are waiting to see what Defra come back with.

(b) Report on Rating - Minute 1229

The Finance Manager reported that a revaluation was completed and the Board approved sending out a determination notice to the occupier. On the twenty eighth day a notice of objection was received regarding that revaluation. The Officers have re-engaged Mr R Hurst from Fisher German to deal with this on behalf of the Board. He added that it went beyond the time that it should have done to tribunal because we were in negotiation with the landowner. Mr R Hurst has agreed the revaluation, the Finance Manager presented this on screen (see below);

SCHEDULE OF BUILDINGS

No	Building	Area (sq m)	Age when erected	Year of erection on site	Annual value (£/sq m)	Annual value (£)	less 10% for overall size of glass	Total annual value
1	Office	76.89	-	-	7	538.23		538.23
2	Glasshouse	2,255.34	30	2001	1.61	3,631.09	363.11	3,267.98
3	Polytunnel	-	-	-	-	-		
4	Shed	81	Unknown	Unknown	3.33	269.73		269.73
5	Glasshouse	278.6	30	2001	1.61	448.55	44.85	403.69
6	Shed	109.8	Unknown		3.33	365.63		365.63
7	Glasshouse	9,728	20 yrs +	2012/13	1.93	18,775.04	1877.50	16,897.54
8	Glasshouse	8,601	20 yrs +	2017	2.15	18,492.15	1849.21	16,642.93
								38385.73

The Finance Manager pointed out that it was agreed that the valuation above, is a reduction in valuation of £11,064 the reason for this is the glass which had been installed had been valued as new glass when actually it was second-hand glass this is the reason for the reduction in the valuation. This will then require a write off of £1,394.06 from what has been included within the drainage rate demand this year.

Account Ref	Location of Revaluation	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation	Write Off
2983/ 02011302	Blackjack Road Kirton	Revised nursery revaluation	£49,450	£38,386	£1,394.06

It is recommended that the new valuation be backdated and effective from 1st April 2018 and recommended that the write off be approved to be included in the accounts of the Board for the year ending 31st March 2019.

The Board AGREED to write off the sum of £1,394.06 in respect of drainage rate account No 2983/02011302 and the valuation determination backdated to 1st April 2018.

1286 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(a)

The Chairman presented the confirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received. There were no matters arising.

1287 MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(b)

The Southern Works Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 7th March 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received. There were no matters arising.

Mr M Rollinson moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1288 MINUTES OF THE STRUCTURES COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(c)

The Structures Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) Access by Third Parties using Pumping Stations as Crossing Points – Minute 1251

The Chief Executive referred to the signs stating they have been erected at the pumping stations. He presented on screen photographs of the signs.

(ii) Drain 27/1 Culvert 604 Haconby Fen - Minute 1253(a)

Mr J Fowler asked if there had been any response from the owners of the properties at the Haconby Fen culvert site. The Chief Executive responded no, there has been no response to the formal letter requesting that they identify the fact they believe that the culvert belongs to the drainage board.

Mr V Barker concluded that if something goes wrong the Board then has the right to pull the lot out of the drain and let them worry about their access.

Mr J Fowler moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1289 TO ADOPT THE STRUCTURES REPLACEMENT POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(i)

Mr J Fowler presented the Structures Replacement Policy on page 42 - 45, the Chief Executive added that there were no alterations to this policy. He stated that it is now in its second year but it will be dated that it was last reviewed on the 30th May 2018.

The Chairman asked Board Members if this policy should be adopted. The Board RESOLVED that the Structures Replacement Policy be adopted.

1290 MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(d)

The Northern Works Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 11th April 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) Damage to Concrete Farm Yard – Claydike Farm, Holland Fen - Minute 1257(b)

The Operations Manager reported that he has met with the landowner and discussed the Northern Works Committee meeting proposal made which was the offer of £3,000 towards the value of the concrete (in concrete) to replace those bays.

Email – from the Operations Manager to the Landowner

Thank you for meeting me this morning and discussing the concrete hard standing in your yard at Claydike on Martins Cross Drove was an agenda item on the Northern Works Committee meeting on the 11th April 2018. To recap the Northern Works Committee discussed this item and proposed a contribution to the value of £3,000 worth of ready mixed concrete based upon the following; the area of the concrete bay is 4m x 36m at a recognised thickness of 200mm which equates to a value of concrete 30 metres cubed of circa £3,000. As discussed at our site meeting today the Board agreed in the 2006 letter, which he attached in the email that if the concrete deteriorates

significantly over the next few years that it would be reasonable for the Board to come to an agreement with yourself on a suitable contribution towards any works required to refurbish it.

Since this email the Operations Manager, has received a response from the landowner;

In response to the following events and communications by Black Sluice – Northern Works Committee visit with site inspection of the broken strip of concrete at Claydike Farm yard. References Mr S Hemming’s letter of 2006, also the concrete was originally broken by Black Sluice excavator during the 1990s – this refers to the older/wider cracks that Mr Hemming’s notices and mentioned in his letter. The damage caused in the 1990s was also the reason the Black Sluice reconstructed the worsened cracks section. Mr Hemming’s this reconstructed section in his letter the new cracks were made in 2006. In the period since Mr Hemming’s letter the cracks have widened the surface has become un-level and reverse slope towards the drain has developed. The landowner would like answers to the following questions before he can make full and reasonable response to the proposal;

- ***Following Mr Hemming’s letter accepting responsibility what decisions were taken to minimise further damage to the concrete by the excavators passing through***
- ***What damage preventative measures were put into practise and in which years since 2006***
- ***What instruction were given to excavator operators of how damage could be averted so limiting the value of the Black Sluice contribution?***

I did not see or am aware of any measures, which were put into practise every ‘passing through’ of the excavators, which would have prevented the initial damage being exacerbated.

The Operations Manager asked the question the concrete was there which pre-dates arguably any byelaws and he believed it was put down in the late 1960s early 1970s. We have carried out what we believe is some testing around the thickness of the concrete and its strength. The Operations Manager stated that the problem is that we need access along there and the issue of the concrete hardstanding which we believed had been resolved with the agreed value of the contribution towards the costs the Board offered. He asked Board Members where we go and what response the Board gives to the landowner.

Mr P Holmes stated that it was an unconditional offer and its was a take it or leave it, without prejudice and unconditional £3,000 worth of concrete. Mr W Ash asked if the landowner has specified a sum he wants to recover. The Operations Manager responded he has not mentioned it in his email but that is what he is trying to gain with the questions at the end of his email. The landowner did mention onsite that it would be all the Boards cost to replace it.

Mr V Barker asked does the Board have a legal right of way through and over the concrete or over anything which is there. The Chief Executive responded through our byelaws we have a right of way, through the Land Drainage Act.

This particular drain other than the 10 years desilting the excavator has travelled once a year by a rubber wheeled flail followed by a tracked excavator. The yard is regularly used by other HGV farm equipment of the landowners own or landowners contractors.

Mr Holmes added that when this was decided at the Northern Works Committee meeting was the proposal to put to the Board or was it discussion at the Board, how do the Committee stand? The Finance Manager responded that the Committee has delegated authority to make the offer up to £10,000. The Finance Manager continued by saying this is the response from the landowner and asked Board Members what do you want to do. The Finance Managers view would be not to respond to any of those questions because by responding you may be accepting responsibility. Mr Ash asked in Mr S Hemmings letter did he accept responsibility for the damage, the Chief Executive responded showing a map showing the concrete hatched area, replaced by the Board he is assuming at that time we accepted. Mr J Fowler stated that the offer should be reiterated saying despite your questioning the situation is as it is today and the Boards offer stands without trying to answer his enquires – in good faith.

The Chairman stated at the time we thought it is a fairly tight yard and the lorry's being loading will be standing in that area on the side of the drain as you can't get a forklift to it so they are exacerbating the concrete yard as well. Mr Robinson added that he had spoken to the landowner who made this point to him that it is not solely the Black Sluice IDB vehicles using the concrete yard, he claimed that it had been damaged then subsequent use by the landowner had made it worse.

The Chief Executive stated that in the email ref Mr S Hemmings letter dated 10 August 2006 stating in the last paragraph;

In conclusion I do not consider that any action is required at the present time but accept if the concrete deteriorates significantly over the next few years it would be responsible for the Board to come to an agreement with yourself of a suitable contribution towards any works required to refurbish the hard standing.

The Chief Executive added that he would suggest that the Board has offered a suitable contribution and he has declined it. Mr Holmes concluded that it is either re sending the same offer letter or do nothing. He confirmed that no other or start entering negotiations about previous damage or anything like that this is the offer.

Cllr T Ashton stated that the Board has already been incredibly generous on this point referring to a photograph on screen of the concrete yard – this concrete having been laid in the 1970s its doing remarkably well, he would be proud to have it in his own yard.

The Chairman clarified that the Board reiterates the Northern Works Committee offer. This has been ratified by the Board – all AGREED.

(ii) Drain 5/30 Bank Slippage Amulree, Kirton Holme - Minute 1253(h)

The Operations Manager reported discussing with Cllr C Rylott before this meeting. He reported that he had a meeting with the owners a couple of weeks ago to discuss what we discussed at the Northern Works Committee and decide on the way forward. Initially they thought they would still like to put a pipe culvert past the property it now seems they no longer want to follow that option but they would like the Board to consider an extension to the proposed revetment. He believes it is 3/4 metres, for the Board to consider an extension to the proposed option 2;

Option 2: New revetment placed at a higher design level 4m close-piled sheets & re-profile bank, to create a flatter profile and increase the top crest width c£9,000. To take some of that bearing weight off the bank, to provide more stability with a view to curing the problem in its longevity. This option with a 50% contribution by the owners.

He stated that this would be an additional cost and he would need to work out the costings and go back to the landowner and speak to them but they said they would be prepared to pay all those additional costs with the extension of that option of revetment. He will go and speak to them and formalise this and make this process happen.

Mr Holmes thanked the Operations Manager concluding that the Board would contribute 50% (£4,500) with any additional works and the other 50% being paid for by the owners.

(iii) Great Hale Pumping Station - Minute 1253(i)

The Chief Executive presented on screen a photograph of the signs which have been erected at various pumping stations informing users/crossers of those pumping stations through various scenarios from pedestrians to livestock to light weight vehicles to heavy agricultural vehicles. These signs have been posted in very prominent parts. To date we have not received a single enquiry or correspondence, he is sure they will be received in the future. We will firstly inspect their claim of legal right and then we will negotiate with them a suitable agreed crossing agreement.

Mr R Leggott referred to looking at the legal right, the Board has not yet received any claims, the Chief Executive responded that he is expecting a claim of right of crossing whether it is a legal right of crossing is another matter.

Mr M Rollinson asked that this pumping station is unique as the land is landlocked, the Chief Executive responded that it is not landlocked there is access, each one is bespoke, each one is unique in its own way its land locked in the terminology in the form of transport you are going to use to gain entry into that field you can obtain permission to drive through some private land and probably take a one hour detour its not locked, in reality it is landlocked. The Great Hale pumping station is going to be the tricky one.

He added that some of our crossing bays, outfall bays are being used by pedestrians, livestock or the machinery he has stated and the Board have a Health & Safety liability concern with regards to people crossing them and the state they are left in for safety of the Boards workforce, and this bay is being used by a 13 ton tractor with a 15 ton loaded trailer tracking across and vibrating through that structure causing possible damage to electrically equipment – failure in the pumps etc.

The Chief Executive concluded that we need to start looking at these concrete suction bays and outfall bays as they were not designed in the 1960s to carry these sorts of weights we have to seriously contest the scenario.

Cllr T Ashton asked that the Officers are assuming more claims after they have been closed than before. The Chief Executive agreed, yes this is why we have given a long lead in period on those signs.

Mr P Holmes moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1291 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(e)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received. There were no matters arising.

Cllr M Brookes moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1292 TO ADOPT THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY POLICY - Agenda Item 5(e)(i)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Risk Management Strategy Policy on pages 84 - 106, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 25th April 2018.

Cllr S Waring asked there are a lot of risks in the register - when do you get to a point when all three are green is there any reason why it should still remain on the risk register when there is no risk. Mr V Barker responded that there is a reason for them to remain on the register the fact we have reviewed each risk and seen there is nothing changing, if it had not been on the list and something happen we would be wrong for not having it on the list and the fact we are looking and go through each one it needs to remain on whether green or not. Cllr M Brookes responded he agreed the fact is we will come back and look at that the next time it is reviewed, it could be that they have slightly moved and we could be upping the risk. Cllr S Waring added that if there continues to be no risk any category how long would you leave them on the risk register, you could go on forever. The Finance Manager offered clarity that just because on the matrix they are 'LOW' and 'LOW' does not mean there is no risk it just means its below '£10,000', 'would not affect us for over a day and would not cause serious injury but could cause some injury' and then on the likelihood 'it is most un likely to happen' is LOW not that is never going to happen.

Cllr S Waring concluded that with so many risks on the register you have to ensure that someone is looking at them individually and properly and sometimes, it gets to overcrowded.

The Finance Manager stated that for the benefit of the Board the training which was referred to early on in the meeting, the new Internal Auditor is going to come in November 2018 and do an hour session on 'risk management' and how we can look at it. It may be something for then. Cllr S Waring agreed.

Cllr M Brookes referred to the following risks;

- “1.1(a) - Coastal or Fluvial flooding from failure or overtopping of defences” on page 93. He stated that this is due to the likelihood increase with the decommissioning of the Black Sluice (Boston) pumping station.
- “1.5 – Risk of Operating Machinery to Maintain Watercourses” on page 95 this is because the Llantra training which has been adopted which the operational staff have had. Therefore this has reduced the likelihood of an incident so this has been reduced.
- “1.6 – Risk of Claims from Third Parties for damage to property or injury” on page 96 again a similar reduction due to the Llantra which has been completed.
- “1.7 – Risk of Third Parties damage to Board maintained assets, it was recommended to add this additional risk. He presented on screen a view of the risk detailed below;

1.7 Risk of Third Parties damage to Board maintained assets

Risk:	Damage to Board Maintained Assets Damage to Board Owned Assets
Consequence:	Assets not performing as they are designed to.
How risk is managed:	Managed Assets – Board Byelaws Owned Assets - Insurance

Potential Impact of Risk	Potential likelihood of Risk	Risk Level
MEDIUM	LOW	2

- “5.5 – Fraudulent use of Credit Cards”, this was identified and the Finance Manager introduced into the Risk Management Strategy whilst going through the Insurance policies. The risk being that in total the Officers have £12,500 credit on credit cards between the three Senior Officers the insurance only covers £1,000.
- “8.5 – Risk of Breach in Cyber Security”, all staff have now completed classroom and online training provided by our IT consultants and Sophos as a minimum. So that risk aside for each site security the potential likelihood of risk has reduced and the risk level has gone down as recommended.

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

1293 **TO ADOPT THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS POLICY - Agenda Item 5(e)(ii)**

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Financial Regulations Policy on pages 107 - 111, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 25th April 2018.

The Finance Manager stated that many of the adjustments in this policy are on the recommendations of the Internal Auditor.

The Board RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations Policy be adopted.

1294 TO ADOPT THE PROCUREMENT POLICY - Agenda Item 5(e)(iii)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Procurement Policy on pages 112 - 115, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 25th April 2018.

The Board RESOLVED that the Procurement Policy be adopted.

1295 TO ADOPT THE H&S POLICY FOR DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT - Agenda Item 5(e)(iv)

Cllr M Brookes presented the H&S Policy for Display Screen Equipment on page 116, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 25th April 2018.

The Board RESOLVED that the H&S Policy for Display Screen Equipment be adopted.

1296 TO ADOPT THE LONE WORKER POLICY - Agenda Item 5(e)(v)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Lone Worker Policy on pages 117 & 118, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 25th April 2018.

Cllr M Brookes stated that the Board provide the Lone Worker Devices which is now part of this policy. Mr V Barker asked if these new mobiles are working satisfactorily now, the Finance Manager replied having had such a torrid time with the previous devices he is not getting any complaints.

The Board RESOLVED that the Lone Worker Policy be adopted.

1297 TO ADOPT THE DATA PROTECTION POLICY - Agenda Item 5(e)(vi)

Cllr M Brookes presented the new draft Data Protection Policy on pages 119 - 128, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 25th April 2018.

Cllr M Brookes reported that the Finance Manager had managed to condense lots of lots of pages down into nine pages in this policy. Cllr S Waring remarked that it is one of the best she has viewed. He confirmed that this policy has been passed onto to ADA and it might be sent out to other IDBs in a similar format. He stated that the Board will use this policy and get the recommendations later. The Finance Manager reported that ADA are setting up a Working Group which has not met yet to review and put a draft policy out even though the new GDPR rules came into force 25th May 2018. He did not feel the Board could wait to be caught by the enforcement date.

Cllr M Brookes highlighted the Privacy Notice on pages 127 – 128 which goes with GDPR.

The Board RESOLVED that the Data Protection Policy be adopted.

The Chairman concluded that it shows the value of having an Audit & Risk Committee to look at all these policies in detail, which few other IDBs do. The Chairman made reference to the Finance Manager's achievement on the GDPR policy he stated this Board is ahead of the game again which is gratifying. He thanked Cllr M Brookes for chairing that committee, it is nearly three years that the Chairmen have chaired these Committees that work is done outside of the Board and it is a reporting 'for information' action to the Board I think it shows strength in depth what we have at the Black Sluice.

1298 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(f)

The Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) Matters Arising

(i) Mr J Scott, Brewin Dolphin - Minute 1272

The Chairman stated that a member of the Board had highlighted investing the Boards reserves. When Mr J Scott came to present from Brewin Dolphin the Executive Committee decided to look at a whole scenario of what to do because the banks interest is rubbish but the Board could invest with Brewin Dolphin an amount of money and even if Brewin Dolphin went under the portfolio would belong to the Board regardless. The Executive Committee thought it is a safe way of putting money aside. The Finance Manager put three scenarios on the screen:

Risk Category		£300,000		£500,000	
		Current Income	Average Total Return	Current Income	Average Total Return
3	You place a higher priority on preserving the value of your investments over investment returns and typically will be sensitive to large negative movements in the value of your investment. You are looking to maintain the real value of your investments against inflation and are happy to accept a small degree of fluctuation in the value of the portfolio to achieve this. As a result, the portfolio will hold a greater proportion in lower risk asset classes, such as cash, fixed income and alternatives, relative to the higher risk asset class of equities.	£450	£20,100	£470	£33,500
4	Preserving the value of your investments remains important to you and you would like to maintain the real value of your investments against inflation. Your portfolio is likely to be more evenly balanced between equities and fixed income investments. The amount invested in equities is such that your portfolio is likely to experience some market volatility in exchange for the potential of increased levels of return.	£450	£22,800	£470	£38,000
5	You are looking to maintain the real value of your investments by achieving returns above inflation. Preserving the value of your investment remains important, but you are willing to accept short term volatility to generate potentially higher long-term investment returns. The portfolio will be more evenly balanced between equities and the combined asset classes of cash, fixed interest and alternatives.	£450	£24,900	£470	£41,500

The Chairman presented the above to the Board Members, one is investing £500,000 rather than £300,000 to do this we would need to overturn something the Board put in place about "not investing over £300,000" but he believes if the Board is going to set something like this up and we have the funds available it would be sensible to put £500,000 in one of these investments for the time it would be open ended as we are able to get access to the funds.

The Finance Manager confirmed that the portfolio could be liquidated within seven days. The Chairman continued stating that the money does not disappear, as the Chief Executive had stated at the Executive Committee meeting the Board would not need the money within seven days most suppliers work on 28 days credit.

The Chairman stated that we are putting this to the Board as a way of putting aside a 'sore' that has been running for a while of not knowing what to do with the funds. You can see on screen, what the Board is receiving now and the potential earnings even taking the lowest risk which is '3'.

Mr V Barker expressed that in order for the Board to do this it has to be 100% commitment by every Board Member this is a serious decision you have to get 100% by every Board Member. The Chairman agreed with this and stated the only way we are slightly exposed would be if the day we wanted to liquidate the funds it happens to be on a little bit of the downer but as the Chief Executive at the Executive meeting stated the chances of that happening when we could not wait a few weeks or even a month or two and wait for the downer to go up. The Chairman added that you could put it into one of the banks and lose the lot because none of them have the ratings that Mr N Scott mentioned at the last Board meeting. This is what the Executive Committee have come up with and he asked for the Board Members views.

The Chief Executive reiterated the fact that the funds are held in the Boards name not in anyone else's name. The Finance Manager stated that Brewin Dolphin would be the broker and a separate holding company where the bonds, funds are all held in trust so if Brewin Dolphin got into trouble and went bust those bonds and funds would be in Black Sluice IDB name within this alternative company.

Cllr S Waring asked if any of the Boards constitution limit the Members in any way in investing, the Finance Manager responded yes the Financial Regulations do which have just been approved but there is no reason you could not change the Financial Regulations Policy if that is something the Board wanted to consider, it currently states "the Board has limited funds that may be deposited at fixed term investment with any institution £300,000, the Board only places deposits with financially institution which are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority". Therefore this would not be a fixed term investment it would be an investment with the broker Brewin Dolphin, currently the Executive Committee have a separate fund for the Bourne Fen Farm Trust that is in a portfolio at a risk level of '5' – this is for the ratepayers in that area it alleviates their rates – this is the level which is set for that portfolio. For the Board's fund the Finance Manager suggested that the Board would not be that brave.

The Chairman added that the reason there are extra funds available is because of the efficient way the Board is run and the way that one/two things have happened in the year which has gone in our favour. He added the Board did not put the rate up obviously there is the possibility of not putting it up again and that will be for the new Board to decide.

Cllr B Russell clarified by asking are the Members considering increasing investment from £300,000 to £500,000, the Chairman responded he believed that if we are going to do it we may as well. Cllr Russell added that he is slightly uneasy about the change in concept by increasing the investment amount we are involving in it at the same time.

Cllr M Brookes pointed out that it refers to £300,000 all in one place, where as this would be £500,000 spread over a lot of different investments within the portfolio so its not like the risk of putting it in one place. The Finance Manager explained that there is a Brewin Dolphin guide sent with the agenda papers which has of a breakdown how they would see each risk being broken down therefore in this case it would be 51% fixed income, 26% alternatives, 20.5% equities and a holding of 2.5% cash.

Cllr M Brookes reponded that the point he is trying to make is that it would be across a portfolio it is not like putting all of the your money in one bank its different because you are spreading it across different funds.

The Chief Executive responded that having spoken with the Finance Manger the risk categories 3, 4 or 5 this is from Brewin Dolphin they do not involve themselves with capital investment any lower than category 3. He pointed out that at a risk category 5 for the Bourne Fen Farm Trust account you have to look at the difference between an investment of £500,000 the current income the Board could recover from £500,000 is £470 per year. At a risk category 3 that could be from Brewin Dolphin portfolio as high as £33,500 which is a good opportunity with the risk being spread so widely.

The Chairman asked Members if they have anything against this form of investment with Boards funds, Cllr B Russell asked is it the case that the fund contains a number of investment and are they looked at individually or if the funds fails do all of them come down. The Finance Manager responded no, it's a managed portfolio so Brewin Dolphin will manage on the Boards behalf, ie the Bourne Fen Farm Trust has in the region of 30/40 different separate investments if one of those investments failed then you only lose that particular one. Cllr Russell asked is it not an individual fund encompassing all these, it's just a loose arrangement of individual contracts – he responded that is fine.

Mr W Ash, reiterated that if one loses value then a lot of them would lose value if there is a down turn in the economy.

The Finance Manager stated that over an average of 15 years Brewin Dolphin has the history within the guide in the agenda papers. They start off with a portfolio value of £1,000 and it has gone up to just over £2,500 over the 15 year period they did have a big trough in 2008 but it is still two and a half times what it was 15 years ago. Cllr Russell added that in the last 15 years the UK has had a hell of a market problem.

Mr J Fowler raised his concern that with a managed portfolio you have an ongoing annual cost from Brewin Dolphin which he believed would be 1% – 2% which is a cost, a management cost which you cannot get away from which is done on the capital value of the portfolio that is fine when the portfolio is performing, when the portfolio does not then Brewin Dolphin

will still take their 1 - 2% management charge. Apart from that he believes it is a good spread of risk between say equities and government bonds and he would welcome it.

The Chairman reminded Members that it requires 100% and asked for a show of hands, is the Board happy to do this type of investment – all Members were AGREED. He then asked about the fund amount of £500,000 within this investment, Mr Fowler responded that if you are spreading your risk much more than you are with the £300,000 in a bank because you are spreading between a great range of portfolio investments, the risk of any one thing failing is currently very much lower.

Cllr B Russell withdrew his objection.

Mr M Rollinson asked does the management fee come down with the more that is invested? The Finance Manager responded he did not know and the Chairman clarified that we will ask the question.

Mr V Barker asked is there a charge for withdrawing? The Finance Manager responded that there are dealing charges/fees - for every buy and sell there will be a fee attached to that. Mr Barker then stated that regarding the 100% agreement there are Members of the Board not attending today, I would like to suggest that a letter goes to them telling them what other Board Members have done and state unless they contact the Officers we will assume that they agree – we don't want Members saying that they would not have agreed if there were not here. The Chairman agreed with this to happen.

Cllr T Ashton stated that he is fully on board with this, this is the direction travel across with local government he believes any risk attached has been well debated and he is content to see £500,000 put into this investment.

Mr P Holmes added that if the Board has £500,000 to invest if we are only going to do the £300,000 to get a potential of £20,100 then clearly the £200,000 we are not investing in this portfolio is only going to accrue £400 a year that is going to look a poor relation for the £200,000 we don't invest in the portfolio against the £300,000 we do.

The Chairman asked Members if they are happy to investment £500,000. All AGREED.

Mr V Barker acknowledged that the Board is dealing with public money and it should be invested properly to give a return.

Mr J Fowler asked if we could have clarification from Brewin Dolphin of what their management fee is on the portfolio in writing. The Chairman agreed yes. Mr P Holmes added that both the setup fee and the management fee because there will be a setup fee as well. The Finance Manager responded that he will get all the details and bring it back to the Executive Committee.

The Chairman suggested the risk level of '3', he asked Members for their decision. All AGREED a risk level of '3'.

(ii) Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station - Minute 1275(a)

The Chairman updated the Board regarding the Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station stating we are not going to get involved with the pumping station, as we said at the meeting we had here with the EA, we feel the risks are too high for this Board and some Councillors seem unhappy about the potential costs so we have resolved we are walking away from the pumping station. There has been two really wet periods since the pumping station closed and the recovery on the South Forty Foot by using the navigation sluice has been in the first instance remarkably quick, in the second instance not so quick. We had a meeting here about what we assumed is a problem with Mr N Robinson (EA) and he said there was not a problem it never got to 2 metres at Black Hole Drove or anywhere else. But he has promised we will input our information on everything that goes on there and will get an input. He does not believe we will ever run it but we will get an input on how we manage the South Forty Foot, and at the moment there were two biggish amounts of rain and they did manage it especially in the first instance very well so providing they are prepared to open that navigation sluice I feel we should be ok.

The Chief Executive concluded there is a second meeting preparing to be held in July 2018 and he believes following the outcome of that meeting there will then be a formal notification and announcement from the EA about the future of the Black Sluice (Boston) pumping station, until that group formally collectively agree the direction we know no announcement will happen until that date. The Chairman added that unfortunately he will not be able to attend that meeting but Mr P Holmes will go in his place.

Mr V Barker asked for clarification about the level of 2 metres at Black Hole Drove he questioned whether that is set a bit high - if it was 1.8 metres or something? The other thing he noticed is that the summer level on the South Forty Foot is running higher than it would do normally and he was disappointed that the 'buddy up' that the workforce did with the EA did not include the use of the navigation lock and questions whether we now need to go further with this 'buddy up' with the navigation lock? It is no good waiting for someone to come from Northampton like in December 2017. The Chairman thought that Mr N Robinson felt that would happen, he said they are learning on their feet in public. But they intend to get it right else they know they are going to have a lot of disgruntled people.

He probably does accept that it was very inopportune to put it at summer levels in face of another inch and half of rain but he said they have these rules, somebody should have looked at it before they set those levels but they were expecting boats to go up there at Easter so they had to get the level up.

Mr V Barker believes that 2 metres is too high, that before the Forty Foot was cleaned out those boats came up at a lower level with more silt in the bottom of the Forty Foot, he has pictures, he saw them that's why I say that the summer level is running higher than normal I think it should be lowered. The Operations Manager asked by how much higher, Mr Barker responded a decimetre – about 0.10 metre. Mr R Leggott commented about our standard, what is it at the moment in other matters?

Perhaps the assets are a bit of a worry, is that we may be further away from having any control over the water level management – is it possible that we can go forward with not taking part not taking it over in broad terms with an increased input into the water level management because the thing which has always been the bug is that the EA are not acting quick enough.

The Chief Executive responded that other than the Board switching the pumps off we have no involvement in the South Forty Foot water level management so we cannot be further away. Clearly we need to be involved as this Board has known since the very early days, our suggestion to the EA is that following full training on the operational of the sluice gates and the navigation lock as a secondary fluvial event channel not to operate for navigation purely as a fluvial channel. Following adequate training and the implementation of a management plan that the EA will control ie lower water level control we have offered ourselves to control those assets under the PSCA, we are waiting to hear from the EA – there will not be an immediate response whether they are favourable towards that. Mr R Leggott responded that he feels the Chief Executive is responding to the physical side of it and he is thinking about the administration side of it making a decision to open it or not.

The Chief Executive clarified that this will be written into the management plan, projected weather forecasts to be allowed to drop the level at an early stage of Met Office warnings.

Mr V Barker explained he has mentioned in the past a lot of the water comes off the highland carriers and he believes the wood line from Bourne to Temple Wood and knowing the rainfall there we do know that Mr Richardson to the west of Temple Wood keeps a daily record of the rainfall and that rainfall takes time to come down sometimes less than twelve hours, but if we have access to what the rainfall is up there in times expected fluvial events I think it would help to get those gates open if need be.

The Chief Executive responded that there is a wider catchment plan approach being reviewed for a number of years now but in mitigation he believes if possible decommissioning the pumping station the EA seem to want to push it a lot further now regards to restricting highland water upper catchment flows into the highland carriers and beyond from a log across a stream in Temple Wood to vee boards or even gates on the highland carriers, not saying there is going to be gates, there used to be a gate across the Skerth Drain. The EA have asked for a list of possible mitigation works that could be reviewed from ourselves and if you can imagine that was an awful long list we provided. He believes the EA are wanting to learn and listen from the local IDB with regards to what opportunities there are to restrict fast acting catchments from holding water back to letting more water go through the double gravity channels of using the pumps. They are looking for that balance.

Mr P Holmes enquired that in answer to both questions after our meeting in the beginning of July 2018 with Mr N Robinson that after that we have there will be definite rules or guidelines in writing of a management agreement with the EA and he would like to think going forward in order to report back to the next full Board meeting and then beyond that the next meeting it will be put into practice we have to report that positively that there is a cooperation between us.

Cllr B Russell referred to Mr Barker's statement regarding highland water in Bourne, he has concerns about the attitude of planning around that part of Bourne it seems to be 'what water problems' there is a pinch point – the Carr Dyke is a pinch point to be quite happy through surface water and other water I have not noticed high levels of highland water coming down but I know the system around Bourne and particularly Else Park it is supposed to be designed for highland water there is a stream coming down through the – Mr Barker interjected Else Park goes through Welland & Deeping IDB, Cllr Russell no it goes under the roundabout on the A15 down into Carr Dyke and through the side of Bourne it is his understanding. Mr Barker explained that the south side of Bourne is Welland & Deeping side.

The Chairman reported that when there was a problem Mr N Robinson EA met with the Black Sluice and said he would come to this Board meeting today if Members were unhappy about the decisions being made. The Chairman confirmed that we have the arrangement with the EA we get on ok with them and they are there on the phone if we have any issues.

Mr R Leggott added he hoped that further talks will take place and the Board will be brought up to date with those talks. Mr Holmes clarified that this Board is part of those talks and therefore they are not discussing things and telling us afterwards, we are part of the discussions. Mr Leggott asked if the whole Board would be brought up to date. The Chairman agreed yes.

(iii) Fisher German (on behalf of the EA) - Minute 1281(d)

Cllr P Bedford asked if the Board's offer of £1 for each lot was accepted. The Chairman responded no the EA had a better offer.

(iv) Office Alterations - Minute 1281(g)

The Chief Executive proposed to obtain three quotations to bring to the Board today, unfortunately because of the timeframe, we have not been able to obtain all three, he currently has one and he will be seeking to obtain two others. He believes that the maximum price for the structural opening downstairs ie knocking the wall out between the operations managers room and the operations supervisor/works managers wall to open this out to one large room. Plus some alterations in the drawing office being the large office basically splitting that in half to make one half an open plan office the other half to be a meeting room and also an office for the Operations Manager. That cost has come in writing a fixed price of just under £10,000 plus the air conditioning, he is quite confident that he will be able to get between the budget of £10,000 to £15,000.

We will continue to obtain two other quotations on the understanding we will fit within that budget and some final tweaking on the actual plans as we speak to other construction builders who were coming up with different ideas possible cost saving ideas in order to seek approval by the Board today we continue with those alterations in the forgoing months.

The Chairman asked the Board Members if they were happy to proceed with this proposal – all AGREED.

(v) Tour of the Netherlands - Minute 1281(h)

The Chief Executive stated there is a detailed literary, vouchers for hotel accommodation, there has been a couple of questions about departure from Swineshead - we are leaving at 6am from the office on Monday morning, if you come to the main depot gate we will be able to park vehicles in the depot and these will then be locked in. We have three pickups on the way, Brothertoft, New York, and Louth with a view to being at Humberside Airport at 8am and the flight is at 9am. Everything else has been catered for the costs are more or less finalised. We have a last minute request from one of the largest drainage boards in the Netherlands, they would like a few hours with this Board looking at some of their pumping station equipment which will be very interesting. He spoke with the Chairman we have on the last evening some very elevated guests joining for dinner and the Chief Executive stated that initially he sent around information that it was informal dress code, he has spoken on the phone as we are only taking hand luggage and the scenarios shirt/tie jackets, they are more than happy to receive us in informal dress on that evening in fact they are looking forward to it.

It is an informative tour, wear comfortable clothing, with your hand luggage you can also carry one accessory ie handbag.

The Chief Executive enquired if anyone has not received the itinerary let the office know and we will forward it again. There are fourteen of us attending, 13 from the Board and there is a new Communications Officer called Ryan Dixon based at ADA HQ he is accompanying us he is the official photographer and he will write up the article for the ADA Gazette.

(b) To Approve the Period 12 Management Accounts – Agenda Item 5(f)(i)

The Chairman referred to the Period 12 Management accounts on pages 146 – 150, the Finance Manager added that these have been reviewed within the Executive Minutes.

(c) To Approve the Internal Auditors Report 2017/18 – Agenda item 5(f)(ii)

The Chairman referred Members to the Internal Auditors Report on pages 151 – 162, he highlighted page 152 which shows the Board with ‘substantial assurance’.

(d) To Approve the Bourne Fen Farm Trust Fund – Agenda Item 5(f)(iii)

The Chairman referred the Board to page 163, stating this is the Bourne Fen Farm Trust Fund, which has been mentioned whilst discussing the Boards investment.

The Chairman invited opinions from Members. All favourable.

1299 TO ADOPT THE POLICY STATEMENT ON WATER LEVEL AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT – Agenda Item 6

The Chairman referred the Board to review and approve a new policy 'Statement on Water Level and Flood Risk Management'. The Finance Manager stated that this was not proposed to be reviewed until November 2019 but ADA and Defra have brought out this new template that they would like IDBs to use and when the comparison was done between what they are asking and suggesting and what we already had, they were vastly different although saying most of the same things with more of an environmental slant. He has not been able to highlight in red what's changed because it was whole paragraphs, so this is the new policy all the figures have been updated and made sure they are correct and asked Members for any feedback on this policy.

The Chairman asked Members for any questions, all favourable.

The Board RESOLVED that the Policy Statement on Water Level and Flood Risk Management be adopted.

1300 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - Agenda Item 7

The Chairman asked Members to review the Annual Governance Statement on page 176 of the agenda.

The Finance Manager reported that this is the Board's responses to the Accounting Statements on page 176 on the left side of the column, and then on the right side is what this actually means. This is almost identical to the statement last year, if this has been reviewed by the Board Members, and favourable for the Chairman to sign to say that the Board Members have given the correct answers.

The Chairman asked Members if there were favourable that he could sign approval.

The Board AGREED to approve the Chairman and Finance Manager to sign the Annual Governance Statement.

1301 APPROVAL OF THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2018 - Agenda Item 8

The Chairman stated the unaudited financial statements which had been circulated under a separate cover and had been reviewed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 9th May 2018.

The Finance Manager stated that the Period 12 management accounts were at an earlier agenda item attached to the Executive Committee minutes – they are the very detailed accounts which are then put into the more formal layout of the unaudited financial statements which are GAAP compliant accounts. It includes the Governance Statement and everything else which we used to have when this was the document used to be audited before we had the Annual Return. This document in turn then is summarised even further into what then becomes the nine boxes on page 177 of the Annual Return.

The Board RESOLVED that the Unaudited Financial Statements should be approved and that the Chairman and Finance Manager should sign the Balance Sheet and Statement of Responsibilities.

1302 TO APPROVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2018 - Agenda Item 9

The Chairman outlined to the Board that Section 2 on page 177 of the Annual Return summarises the Boards official accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018. The Chairman will be asked to sign approving these accounting statements on pages 173 – 178 upon approval of the Board.

The Board RESOLVED that the Annual Return should be approved and that the Chairman should sign the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2018.

1303 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 10

The Chairman presented the risk register on page 179. The Finance Manager stated that one item he has picked up is 1.1 is going to need to be broken down into (a), (b) & (c) now as they don't have the same score – it is now 6, 3, 2 so 1.1 will split out as per the Risk Management Strategy.

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Register be accepted.

1304 REPORTS - Agenda Item 11

(a) Monthly Accounts - Agenda Item 11(a)

The Board's monthly accounts on pages 180 - 190, which included February to April 2018, were circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) Schedule of Consents - Agenda Item 11(b)

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents on pages 191 - 195, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(i) Relaxation of 9 metre byelaw – Mayflower Farm, Tydd Road, West Pinchbeck

The Chief Executive referred Board Members to pages 193 – 195 and presented onscreen design outline view for a proposal. He stated this is a relaxation of the 9 metre byelaw, he referred to page 9 minute 1230(b)(ii) at the previous Board meeting it was agreed to relax the 9 metre byelaw for the property to the south of this applicant (160 Six House Bank) which

the Board agreed to relax. He stated that he could not see why there is any justification to not relax following relaxation of the adjacent property at the same time the Board allowed for the piping of the watercourse were as this application is purely for relaxation to 6 metres from brink of bank but he would bring this to the Board to show how realistically as these properties have developed and have worked towards joining that entire frontage.

The Board RESOLVED that the application to relax the 9 metre byelaw be granted.

(c) Rainfall - Agenda Item 11(c)

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.

(d) Approve Register of Electors - Agenda Item 11(d)

The Finance Manager stated the register of electors was advertised for anybody with an interest to inspect, we had no objections or claims on the register of electors therefore he recommended that the Board approve that they are happy with the register of electors, if you would like to review it he can place it on the screens to be viewed. There were no Members requiring to view on screen, all AGREED to approve the register of electors.

1305 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 12

(a) Environment Agency – Initial Priority Catchments

The Chief Executive stated a copy of the Environment Agency Initial Priority Catchment paper was distributed at the meeting, this is something that EA National have selected the Boards Catchment along with three others to agree a project area for water abstraction.

An EA Officer Darren Smith is the Officer managing our priority catchment plan, predominately this revolves around different control mechanisms for abstraction and the realisation that it is not just about removing water now off land its about the importance of containment or transfer of water so this will be an interesting development over the next few months if not years. It requires standards by 2021 which gives a couple of years to be involved with this amongst other things.

He believes this is a good thing we are now exploring every avenue, every opportunity within this catchment and obviously that the EA at National and local level trust the Officers and Board Members to be able to move forward with a project such as this.

Mr R Leggott reported that the Witham 4th, within their area have a water transfer route do we have any within the Boards area. The Chief Executive responded no, we are expecting to have one of the biggest ones in the Country over the next 10/20 years but at the moment, no.

(b) Heckington Show – 28th & 29th July 2018

The Chief Executive reported that the Lincolnshire IDB Show Committee have put it to Lincs ADA Branch Committee that they would like to attend this show and possibly a show even further south of Lincolnshire therefore Lincs ADA are being represented at the two day show event at Heckington. There may be some of the Boards machinery, there will be some of the Boards staff involved. If you are attending please call in and see us.

(c) South Lincolnshire Water Partnership at Lincolnshire Show 20th & 21st June 2018

The Chief Executive stated that the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership/WRE concept which could be in a few years time is having a marquee at the Lincolnshire Show, if you are at the show please call in and see them.

(d) EPIC Centre

The Chief Executive stated that an invitation has been sent to attend the Lincolnshire Show Epic Centre on the 9th July 2018. He will send out this invitation to the two new Board Members. This is a specialist invitation only event that's crafted around the South Lincs Water Partnership by putting groups of individuals from every sector in a unique group and they are going through a whole life experience of South Lincs Water Partnership. It is a learning exercise, it will be quite an experience to attend, you are openly invited to attend but you have to pre book so those that are interested please get involved.

(e) Yellow Flower Growing on Drain sides

The Operations Manager stated that this Board had discussed this previously at a meeting about 'yellow flower' growing on riverbanks and drain sides. Wherever you seem to look, it seems to be growing quite recently, he had a meeting with a landowner to discuss this subject and what, if anything, the Board were prepared to do about it. He believes that it was discussed at a previous meeting but nothing was really resolved there was never any action to take from it to the Officers from the Board Members around what proposals the Board would want to commit to if any.

During that meeting I was asked if there were ways to control it and what ways there are to control it whether it be chemical, flailing at the right time of year and what if any proposals we could offer so the Operations Manager put it back to the Board Members again around what are we prepared to offer as a Board towards any form of control if any around 'yellow flower'.

Mr J Atkinson believes this meeting was with one of his family, there is a lot more which could be added to this subject. It is growing very thick and very wild in certain parts and obviously he is talking about his area but it is particularly on the South Forty Foot bank and tributaries close to the South Forty Foot and he thinks there are two issues here, wildlife - no birds are nesting in it whatsoever it is far too thick and the other agronomic issue that oil seed rape crops - we are supposed to get low erucic acid in them they were getting contamination and the results last year around the country apparently the erucic acid was going up and it is being blamed through the pollination on this wild hedge mustard 'yellow

flower'. The birds nesting particularly interests Mr J Atkinson, and on his private dykes he has done some tests and we have mowed it one year/two years/and third year and after about the third year it disappears the grass comes back and birds start to nest and all problems of yellow plant are gone. He wondered if the Board would be willing to do some tests and mow some particular bad areas next year it's too late this year obviously.

Mr P Holmes remembered this he believes it was probably brought up at a Northern Works Committee meeting, from recollection he believes we said we would if the farmer concerned was that concerned about it then there would be no reason why he could not flail a Board dyke at a time of year of his choosing obviously when the crop was clear, or when it was clear of frost. With this plant whatever it may be there are opportune times to mow it to stop it flowering and seeding and then setting seeds for another year, if you do that and do it persistently then the plant soon give in and grass takes over and you have the stability of the bank it is something that from recollection we as a Board we took responsibility for it but then said that if the farmer was that concerned if the Board operatives could get to it with one of the Board machines there is no reason why the farmer could not do that and give it a mow before they got there.

Mr J Atkinson responded, that there are a couple of things relevant, that to put it on the Boards website that permission is being given for farmers to do this on their own bank and the other he does not think in all honesty farmers can do the big ~Forty Foot or tributaries where they are at their widest near the Forty Foot. Mr P Holmes replied that a lot of those are not even the Boards responsibility they are probably EA. Mr Atkinson added that the Board might look after these banks, the Operations Manager responded yes.

The Chairman asked if this could be brought up at the Environment Committee meeting, Mr Robinson responded that it was discussed last time because it was around the North Forty Foot around Boston where it comes up to A52 that has been done the last two years, there is now more grass growing and the certain stability of that bank because it was just a mass of this 'yellow weed'. The Chairman suggested we should have a word with the EA and ask them what they say, by referring to nesting birds not nesting because of this 'yellow flower'.

Mr J Atkinson added that when you mow it for the first two years but for the long term good the grasses are going to come back and be more environmentally and bird friendly.

Mr R Leggott asked is it the time of year when the flail takes place to stop the next years crop, if you do it once at the right time of year rather than three times. Is there any research we could look at. Mr M Rollinson googled it and it is annual so if mowed before the seed set then you should be alright. Mr V Barker added that this particular plant wants mowing twice if you mow before the seed sets then it will come again.

The Chief Executive added that the Board has the equipment, but do we have the budgets. The Operations Manager asked to clarify that within the Boards policies if the Board were to go and flail any extra additional lengths we would have to start flail mowing at the end of March and continue that process every 4 to 6 weeks depending on growth to keep that growth down due to nesting birds,

to stop nesting birds that is the only way we could maintain those banks unless we maintain those banks additionally later on in the year after the end of July and start flailing.

Mr M Rollinson asked is it occurring where the banks are no longer grazed this could bring up a whole other issue. Mr J Atkinson responded yes it is where they are not grazed by animals.

The Operations Manager responded that the Board cannot go out early we would have to do it after the cutting season which starts in July and any time between July and the end of the year we could go and flail it but before July we could not flail it. Mr J Atkinson asked is that because of the nesting birds. The Operations Manager responded that if that is the case we would have to go and start at the end of March. If you did want the Board to be involved in any additional flail work one of our machines circa £3,500 per week to run he believes that it can cover between 3 and 4 km an hour, depending on bank heights and passes. If you have three passes to complete a section you would get 3 km completed in three hours. The Operations Manager concluded that where he met with the landowner onsite at Dunsby Fen where the Board drain passes under the road back towards the pumping station that is about 1 km up that roadside length that would achieve those three passes we should get that done in an hour its whether the Board wants to look at a trial area that we could trial some additional flailing where the yellow flower grows and to see if it could be controlled in that way. The problem being it is quite prevalent wherever you look throughout the district.

The Finance Manager added that it is something which the Environmental budget could be used for therefore he suggests that it is brought up at the Environment Committee meeting.

The Chairman stated that this is the last official Board meeting before the elections, after this Board serving for three years. He thanked all Members who have committed to the Black Sluice IDB and thanked all for the support of the Members.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:53.