

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
19th November 2024 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr P Holmes

Mr W Ash	* Mr G Atkinson
* Mr T Ashton	* Mr V Barker
* Cllr P Bedford	* Cllr A Dorrian
* Cllr M Geaney	* Cllr A Hagues
* Cllr Z Lane	* Mr M Leggott
* Cllr D Middleton	* Mr M Mowbray
* Cllr A Izzard	* Mr R Needham
* Mr P Robinson	Mr M Rollinson
* Cllr C Rylott	Cllr D Scoot
* Cllr B Pierpoint	* Cllr S Welberry
* Mr C Wray	* Cllr N Drayton

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr D Withnall (Chief Executive)
Mr P Nicholson (Projects Director)
Mrs A Chamberlain (Finance & Admin Director)

2395 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

The Chief Executive chaired the meeting until the appointment of the Chairperson.

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2396 Appointment of the Chairperson of the Board - Agenda Item 2

On the proposition of Mr V Barker, seconded by Mr P Robinson and a show of hands it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr P Holmes be appointed Chair of the Board for the next three years.

2397 Appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Board - Agenda Item 3

On the proposition of Mr M Leggott, seconded by Mr C Wray and a show of hands it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M Rollinson be appointed Vice Chair of the Board for the next three years.

2398 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 4

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Ash, Cllr D Scoot, Mr M Rollinson and Mr S Harrison (Maintenance Director).

The Chairperson welcomed the new elected members of the Board; Mr T Ashton, Mr M Mowbray and Mr G Atkinson. The Chairperson also welcomed appointed members that were attending their first meeting, Cllr B Pierpoint and Cllr A Dorrian.

2399 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 5

There were no declarations of interest received. It was noted that new forms are required to be completed.

2400 Appointment of Board Members and Co-opted Members to constitute the following committees including the appointment of a Chairperson for each committee - Agenda Item 6 & 7

The Chairperson invited members to express any interests or specialist knowledge areas in relation to the Board' subcommittees, further inviting any comments on the proposed committee constitutions.

(a) Executive

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

Executive Committee	
Chair	Mr Paul Holmes
Vice-Chair	Mark Rollinson
Chair NW Committee	Duplicate
Chair SW Committee	Chris Wray
Chair Environment Committee	Robert Needham
Chair Audit & Risk Committee	Mark Leggott
Chair Structures Committee	Cllr David Middleton
Boston Borough Council Representative	Cllr Peter Bedford

(b) Northern Works

It was RESOLVED that the Northern Works Committee be appointed as follows, with Mr M Rollinson appointed Chairperson:

Northern Works Committee	
Board Members	Co-opted Members
Mark Rollinson	Michael Brookes
Tom Ashton	David Casswell
Paul Holmes	James Emerson
Mark Leggott	James Pocklington
Robert Needham	Roger Welberry
Peter Robinson	Vacancy
Cllr Peter Bedford (BBC)	Vacancy
Cllr Anne Dorrian (BBC)	Vacancy
Cllr Neil Drayton (BBC)	
Cllr Andrew Hagues (NKDC)	
Cllr Andy Izard (BBC)	
Cllr David Middleton (BBC)	
Cllr Barrie Pierpoint (BBC)	
Cllr Claire Rylott (BBC)	
Cllr David Scoot (BBC)	
Cllr Suzanne Welberry (BBC)	

(c) Southern Works

The Board RESOLVED that the Southern Works Committee be appointed as follows, with Mr C Wray appointed Chairperson:

Southern Works Committee	
Board Members	Co-opted Members
Chris Wray	James Casswell
Vic Barker	Keith Casswell
George Atkinson	Ross Dorrington
William Ash	Andrew Mair
Mark Mowbray	Mark Taylor
Cllr Margaret Geaney (SHDC)	Vacancy
Cllr Zoe Lane (SKDC)	Vacancy
	Vacancy

(d) Environment

The Board RESOLVED that the Environment Committee be appointed as follows, with Mr R Needham appointed Chairperson:

Environment Committee	
Northern Works	Southern Works
Roger Welberry	Robert Needham
Peter Robinson	William Ash
Paul Holmes	George Atkinson
Mark Rollinson	Mark Taylor
Cllr Claire Rylott (BBC)	Cllr Andrew Hagues

(e) Audit & Risk

The Board RESOLVED that the Audit & Risk Committee be appointed as follows, with Mr M Leggott appointed Chairperson:

Audit & Risk Committee	
Northern Works Elected	Mark Leggott
Northern Works Elected	Tom Ashton
Southern Works Elected	Vic Barker
Southern Works Elected	Mark Mowbray
Appointed Member	Cllr Margaret Geaney (SHDC)
Appointed Member	Cllr Zoe Lane (SKDC)
Additional Member	Cllr Suzanne Welberry (BBC)

(f) Structures

The Board RESOLVED that the Structures Committee be appointed as follows, with Cllr D Middleton appointed Chairperson:

Structures Committee	
Cllr David Middleton (BBC)	
William Ash	Peter Robinson
Mark Mowbray	Vic Barker
Mark Leggott	Chris Wray
Cllr David Scoot (BBC)	Cllr Peter Bedford (BBC)

(g) Nominations

The Board RESOLVED that the Nominations Committee be appointed as follows:

Nominations Committee	
Chair	Paul Holmes
Vice-Chair	Mark Rollinson
Chair Audit & Risk Committee	Mark Leggott

2401 Minutes of the last Board meeting - Agenda Item 8

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 11th June 2024, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2402 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 9

(a) Policy No. 1: Risk Management Strategy: Risk 8.9 Risk of loss of Rating Records - Minute 2332 (d)(iii)

The Chief Executive highlighted that the current Drainage Rate System used by the Board runs on Microsoft Access Runtime 2003 and so is out of date and no longer supported. This system is therefore being retired on 31 March 2025. National ADA were looking at options for a brand-new bespoke software, however, this didn't gain much traction. The Board's local to this Board have generally agreed that they are happy with how the current system works and so would prefer to upgrade the current system to continue working how it currently does. The cost to upgrade the current system is £10,000 (to be paid to South Holland IDB to develop the upgrade onto Office 365). A fee of c£5,000 per annum will also be paid for support (it may be required to employ somebody to run a help desk for it).

2403 To receive the minutes of the following meetings - Agenda Item 10

(a) Northern Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Northern Works Committee presented the Minutes of the Northern Works Committee meeting held on the 2nd July 2024, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

An error was noted in Minute 2345, reference to Dowsby Pumping Station, should be Damford Pumping Station.

(b) Executive Committee

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 14th August 2024, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters Arising:

(a) IDB Recovery Funding - Minute 2355

The Projects Director explained that the government outlined £75million as an IDB Recovery Fund which IDB's could place expressions of interest to bid for. This funding was split into two tranches (Tranche 1: £25million, Tranche 2: £50million). The Board were awarded nearly everything applied for in Tranche 1, and those that were not successful were deferred into Tranche 2.

The Board are currently completing works with Tranche 1 funding, with a progress update noted below:

Pumping Station Refurbishments (Helpringham, South Kyme, Dunsby, Ewerby, Dyke Fen, Pinchbeck)

The Projects Director noted that there was a delay with the releasing of funds to the Board for all the projects relating to pumping station refurbishment as there were government concerns around the environmental impacts of replacing with like for like rather than fish and eel friendly pumps. All orders for this work had been placed prior to receiving the funding to ensure the work is completed by the deadline of 31 March 2025.

The Projects Director gave a brief overview of the work to the pumping stations, noting that if motors are upgraded then this may require an upgrade to the site supply. This has been quoted at c£40,000 to amend the supply (within budget). The motors range from £33,000 - £38,000 each and will be able to run at variable speeds. For the single pump sites especially, this will be beneficial, as it will give the Board flexibility on the operation speed of the pump.

Cllr D Middleton questioned if all the motor drives are being aligned so that the Board only requires one set of spares? The Projects Director responded that the Board do not stock spares but have confirmed with the manufacturer that they are readily available if required.

Mr C Wray noted that the new motor drives may be better on the network and so the Board may be able to achieve a better rate. The Projects Director noted that potentially the standing rate could decrease, and they should be more efficient to run.

The Chairperson suggested that having the variable speed drive may help prevent bank slips as the water won't have to be moved so quickly.

Donington Northorpe Culvert Repair

The Projects Director next referred to the funding achieved for Donington Northorpe Culvert, noting that some of this funding is retrospective as some work had already been completed. The next step is to survey the remaining section and potentially line the existing pipe to future preserve it.

Donington Northings Alternative Access Track

The Projects Director next referred to the funding for Donington Northings Access, this has gone to tender and will be due to be completed towards the end of March 2025.

Mr V Barker questioned if Network Rail will be making any contribution? The Projects Director responded that he is not getting much response from contacts at Network Rail but will continue trying.

Catchment Wide Bank Slips

It was noted that, to date, £332,674 of the £705,220 funding achieved has been spent completing bank slips. It is a possibility that a further £355,610 funding will be received to complete more bank slips as this was originally bid for and more slips have been encountered during the cutting season.

(c) Executive Committee

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 17th September 2024, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

To approve the following:

(i) Plant Budget

The Board RESOLVED that the Plant Replacement Budget be approved.

(ii) Draft timetable for 2025 meetings

The Chairperson noted that consideration is being given to having an earlier or later start time in acknowledgement that a lot of Board Members are of a working age. This will be down to each individual committee Chair.

Cllr B Pierpoint noted that there is no time allocated for the Northern / Southern Works? It was explained that these are inspection days, commencing in the morning at the Board's Offices, followed by a bus tour inspection of the area, lunch and concluded with the committee meeting.

All AGREED the below dates for 2025 meetings:

Executive	Tuesday 21 st January 2025	2pm
Board	Tuesday 11 th February 2025	2pm
Environment	Tuesday 4 th March 2025	2pm
Structures	Tuesday 25 th March 2025	2pm
Audit & Risk	Tuesday 15 th April 2025	2pm
Northern Works	Tuesday 13 th May 2025	-
Executive	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	2pm
Board	Tuesday 24 th June 2025	2pm
Southern Works	Tuesday 15 th July 2025	-
Executive	Tuesday 16 th September 2025	2pm
Joint Works	Tuesday 7 th October 2025	2pm
Audit & Risk	Tuesday 28 th October 2025	2pm
Board	Tuesday 18 th November 2025	2pm

Matters arising:

(iii) ADA Pay & Conditions Committee - Minute 2364(c)

The Chief Executive confirmed that ADA Pay & Conditions Committee agreed to recommend a Pay Award of 5.1% for 2025/26 (July 2024, Public Sector AWE, 12-month average) which has been accepted by both Lincolnshire ADA and UNISON.

The Chief Executive also noted the new government's recent budget announcement and increase in employer National Insurance contributions, explaining that this results in a £39,418 increase for the Board at current 2024/25 rates. The Board can claim the employment allowance (£10,500) which reduces this to £28,918, however, according to the .gov.uk website "you cannot claim if you're a public body or business doing more than half your work in the public sector (such as local councils and NHS services) - unless you're a charity."

(iv) Board's response to the Phase 2 Consultation for the Lincolnshire Reservoir - Minute 2364(e)

Mr V Barker made reference to the paragraph commencing '*The Chief Executive noted that last week, the Board required the levels in the New Hammond Beck reducing because of strain on a dam...*'. Noting that it doesn't make sense. The Chief Executive suggested that the paragraph is split into two and expanded further.

(v) Planning and Enforcement Officer Vacancy - Minute 2364(f)

The Chief Executive noted that the vacancy had been filled, with the successful candidate due to commence January 2025. However, she has since withdrawn due to a change in personal circumstances. The recruitment process has therefore recommenced.

(vi) South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) Contract - Minute 2365

The Chief Executive noted that, with the support of Cllr Z Lane, the SKDC contract order has now been received and work commenced (two months later than usual). It has not been done through the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) this year as the contract required £5million Professional Indemnity insurance and the Board only hold £2million. The Maintenance Director is dealing with this to see if it can be reduced to the £2million and be done through a Public Sector Cooperation Agreement going forward.(Post meeting: Maintenance Director has confirmed this has been reduced to £2m in the PSCA and will now be signed).

(vii) Highland Water Claim - Minute 2366

The Chief Executive referenced only receiving 54% of the 80% payment in advance of the Highland Water claim from the Environment Agency (EA). At the last RFCC meeting, the RFCC agreed that if there are no further funds from National Government then the RFCC will pay the difference.

(viii) Flyswat - Boston Borough Council - Minute 2366

The Chief Executive noted that this has moved forward in a positive way, with the aid of Cllr P Bedford, but are still waiting for the annual meeting.

(ix) Plant Budget - 8" pump - Minute 2367(b)

The Projects Director confirmed that the 8" pump has been ordered and is expected for delivery in 2-3 weeks.

(d) Joint Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Joint Works Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Joint Works Committee meeting held on the 1st October 2024, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

(i) Dunsby Fen Pumping Station - Minute 2377(a)

The Projects Director referred to both Dunsby and Quadring bank repairs following overtopping required by the Environment Agency (EA).

Initially, the EA quoted that the repairs would be completed September – October 2024, they have not yet been started and are now quoting an earliest start date of January 2025, completion by end of March 2025. With the Projects Director re-iterating that they (EA) are not raising the level of the embankment, just repairing it to its original level.

(ii) 2024/25 IDB Recovery Fund Tranche 2 - Minute 2380(kk)-(oo)

The Projects Director gave an update on Tranche 2 of the IDB Recovery Fund.

The Projects Director noted that the Board were asked to put the bid for repairs to the banks at the four pumping stations with water seepage (South Kyme, Ewerby, Damford, Trinity College) into the extension of Tranche 2 that will be required to be completed by 31st March 2026 (£19million available). One quote from Balfour Beatty at £7.5million has been received through the SCAPE framework and it is not likely that any further quotes will be received in the timeframe that would be required to be able to get the work completed by March 2026. These applications will have to be made in December 2024, with it not yet known how long after this it will be before decisions are announced.

The success of the other bids submitted for Tranche 2 funding has not yet been announced.

To approve the following:

(i) Capital Schemes Budget

The Board RESOLVED that the Capital Schemes Budget be approved.

(e) Audit & Risk Committee

The Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on the 29th October 2024, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

(i) To approve the Annual Return including External Auditor's opinion for 2023/24

The Board RECEIVED the Annual Return including External Auditor's opinion.

To adopt the following:

(ii) Format of Annual Accounts

The format of the annual accounts was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the format of the Annual Accounts be adopted.

(x) Policy No. 03: Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations were presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations (Policy No. 3) be adopted.

(xi) Policy No. 14: Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Procedure was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Complaints Procedure (Policy No. 14) be adopted.

(xii) Policy No. 26: Young Persons Safety at Work

The Young Persons Safety at Work Policy was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Young Persons Safety at Work Policy (Policy No. 26) be adopted.

(xiii) Policy No. 40: Commercial Works

The Commercial Works Policy was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Commercial Works (Policy No. 40) be adopted.

(xiv) Policy No. 44: Development Control Charges and Fees Policy

The Development Control Charges and Fees Policy was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Development Control Charges and Fees Policy (Policy No. 44) be adopted.

(xv) Policy No. 45: Mobile Phones and Devices

The Mobile Phones and Devices policy was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Mobile Phones and Devices policy (Policy No. 45) be adopted.

(xvi) New Policy: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy be adopted.

2404 To review the Risk Register - Agenda Item 11

The Risk Register is reviewed in detail by the Audit & Risk committee, those risks with a Risk Score of 6 were highlighted:

- Risk 1.1(b) Fluvial flooding from failure of overtopping of defences
- Risk 1.1(c) Flooding from failure of IDB pumping stations or excess rainfall
- Risk 1.9 Insufficient finances to carry out works

The Chief Executive referred to Risk 1.1(b) and 1.1(c), noting that due to the repairs required from the damage caused by storms not yet being completed, it is felt these risks should remain at Risk Score 6.

The Chief Executive referred to Risk 1.9 and that it is felt this risk should remain at Risk Score 6 due to the additional costs experienced as a result of Storm Henk and Storm Babet, with a potential for it to be reduced when reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee in Spring 2025 once all IDB Recovery Funding is confirmed and spent.

Cllr B Pierpoint questioned what is meant by Risk 1.9 and whether it is about having a set amount of money to spend, things not being budgeted for, etc.? The Chief Executive explained that, for example, following the winter storms, £767,000 had been spent on electricity which had not been budgeted for. Some of this has been recovered through the IDB Recovery Fund (£464,000), but otherwise the Board would have to consider where that expenditure would come from and what would have to be compromised / what increase in the rate would be required to fund it. Cllr B Pierpoint questioned how a Risk Score of 6 is arrived at? The Chief Executive explained that it based on a criteria matrix within the Risk Management Strategy (displayed on screen). Mr M Leggott suggest that this matrix be included with the Risk Register going forward.

The Board RESOLVED the Risk Register be accepted.

2405 Report on Finance & Admin – Agenda Item 12

(a) Period 06 Management Accounts

The Finance & Admin Director presented the Period 06 Management Accounts, highlighting the below:

- Unpaid drainage rates are now at the stage of going to court. Originally, there were 28 summonses sent, 7 have since paid, leaving 21 summonses to be sent for court on 9th December 2024.
- Spent less on rechargeable works and the original schemes but spent more on the schemes relating to the IDB Recovery Fund.
- Spent less on Drain Maintenance but more on IDB Fund slips.
- Admin salaries is underspent due to the current Planning & Enforcement Officer vacancy.

Cllr B Pierpoint questioned the role of Brewin Dolphin for the Board? It was explained that they manage the Board's investment portfolio (£500,000) which is a mix of bonds and shares at a low risk. Cllr B Pierpoint questioned if the performance of this is monitored by the Audit & Risk committee? It was noted that the Executive Committee monitor this portfolio and Brewin Dolphin attend annually. It was further noted that the value of the fund has decreased, but if the current value is taken with the profit that has been received the Board hasn't lost anything.

Cllr A Dorrian referenced the Miscellaneous Income at £2,024,223 questioning if there is any more detail on this? It was noted that all the grant income and IDB Recovery Funding is within this. Cllr A Dorrian also questioned the minimum reserve position held by the Board? The Chief Executive explained that the Practitioner's Guide advise between 3 – 12 months of expenditure, until two years ago, the Board were trying to reduce the Board's reserves to the lower 3 months of expenditure. However, due to external factors (i.e., excessive wet conditions, electricity price increase etc.) this was reviewed and decided to aim to be able to fund for two wet years at current electricity rates (c£1.5million). The Chairperson added, that in relation to electricity costs, the Board went from £121,000 (2020/21) to £767,000 (2023/24).

The Chairperson added that because of all the IDB Recovery Funding money being received, the accounts will not present as accurate as they usually would whilst the Board get it spent.

Cllr B Pierpoint questioned if there could be some notes to explain what is going on at that time? The Chief Executive noted that there is a narrative at the beginning of the management accounts to highlight noteworthy points.

Mr V Barker referred to the solar panel income being down? The Chief Executive noted that this is two sites; Chain Bridge and Wyberton Marsh. Chain Bridge has currently got a fault which requires each solar panel to be disconnected and reconnected to identify the fault and Wyberton Marsh has now been repaired. They are read monthly internally.

(b) Drainage Rates Report

The Finance & Admin Director referred to the revaluation within the report, and all AGREED to the amended valuation and to the write off value of £859.55.

Account Ref	Location of Revaluation	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation	Write Off
2798	Wortleys Lane, Wyberton Fen	Four glasshouses decommissioned.	£7,319	£604	£859.55

The Finance & Admin Director referred to the write off within the report, noting that the figure within the report is incorrect as initially it was thought that the whole site was to be transferred to special levy, however, part of the site can still be classed as agricultural (wooded area). Therefore, the write off value is £176.01, all AGREED to the write off value of £176.01. This will have a special levy increase of £8,409 at 2024/25 rates (North Kesteven District Council).

Account Ref	Location of Land	Description	Write Off
3399	Mareham Lane, Threkingham	Holiday Park now fully complete and therefore business rates are now being charged. Write off for 2024/25 and move to Special Levy for 2025/26 onwards.	£176.01

(c) Quarter 2 Forecast

The Finance & Admin Director presented the Quarter 2 Forecast, noting the following points:

- Grant income rephased to when it is expected to receive the income, including for the IDB Recovery Fund.
- Rechargeable income further reduced due to prioritisation of IDB Recovery Fund works.
- The Spend to Date on bank slips (part of IDB Recovery works) is £332,674, in addition to another £85,000 worth of stock that has been purchased but not yet used.
- Currently forecasting to gain an additional £686,914 for the reserves at year end. This is predominately made up of the £452,936 received for the additional electric expenditure in the previous financial year. £159,000 was budgeted for Emergency Large Slips which will no longer be required as is being completed through IDB Recovery Funding.

2406 Report on Health and Safety – Agenda Item 13

The Chief Executive presented the report on health and safety, noting that a Health & Safety Committee was formed not long after being in post as Chief Executive. The Health & Safety Committee consists of the Chief Executive, Maintenance Director, Works Supervisor, Mr M Leggott and three workforce employees.

The Chief Executive noted that it is proving beneficial to gain the viewpoint of the workforce employees. The committee have also been reviewing risk assessments, it being believed that it is far more accurate to complete these in-house, rather than completed by the Health & Safety Consultants as they were previously. The Health & Safety Consultants (Cope Safety Management) now take more of an external audit role, visiting twice a year, to review the Board's operations and point out any observations.

The Chief Executive further noted the increased number of near misses reported now than in previous years, adding that he is pleased the workforce now feel able to report these incidents to be able to identify any trends and prevent them reoccurring.

The Chief Executive also noted that, thankfully, there have been no serious accidents, which have all been reviewed and measures taken to prevent it happening again.

Cllr A IZARD referred to the accident scored 2 (RIDDOR reportable), questioning how this is dealt with? The Chief Executive explained that the RIDDOR reporting process is an online form, this accident being RIDDOR reportable because the employee was off work for more than five days following the accident, had it been a more serious injury, then the Board would have been subject to a HSE inspection. This was therefore dealt with by the management team and was caused by using the wrong hooks for lifting a ramp. In the future, the Board is going to have its own ramp and associated lifting hooks.

2407 Reports on the following: - Agenda Item 14

(a) Monthly Accounts: (June 2024 – October 2024)

The Board's monthly accounts, inclusive of June 2024 – October 2024, were circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) Monthly Accounts: Woldmarsh (May 2024 – September 2024)

The Board's monthly Woldmarsh invoices, inclusive of May 2024 – September 2024, were circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(c) Schedule of Consents (June 2024 – October 2024)

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents, consisting of June 2024 – October 2024, copies of which had been circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(d) Rainfall

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

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2408 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 15

(a) Plant - Hooby

Mr V Barker questioned if the Hooby is performing well? Adding that if the Board want another one for the next replacement, then it needs to be being ordered soon.

The Projects Director noted that the Board currently have the new version of the Twiga on demo and it is being very well received by operators. Predominantly, it is the same machine as the current Twigas. It being noted that the Twiga and Hooby are similar in price.

The Hooby hasn't got the reach on its standard arm that the Twiga has but does come with an extendable dipper attachment. The Twiga's have had their fair share of breakdowns this season, compared to the Hooby which has only had one day off the road. The lead time of a Hooby would be 12-18months. The Hooby has been used more for cutting this year, due to keeping the oldest third Twiga (15 plate) running to assist with delivering all the bank slip repairs funded by the IDB recovery fund.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:08.