



## 1. Governance

### 1.1 Apologies for Absence

### 1.2 Declaration of Interest

Board Members are advised to declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest on any item in the Agenda.

### 1.3 Minutes of the Meeting held 9 January 2024

MEMBER	10.1. 2023	13.6. 2023	9.1. 2024			
Martin Belton (MB) – <i>Chair</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Michael Dougherty (MD)	✓	✓	✓			
Douglas McTaggart (DMT)	✓	✓	✓			
John Barker (JB) – <i>Vice Chair</i>	✓	✓	A			
John Oldridge (JO)	✓	A	✓			
Cllr Liz Sargeantson (LS)	-	-	-			

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting, Clerk, Engineer and Environmental Adviser:

Mr Paul Jones – Engineer to the Board

PJ

Mr Mark Joynes – Finance Officer

MJ

#### Apologies for Absence

2024.1 Apologies were received from Mr John Barker and Mr Craig Benson.

#### Declaration of Interest

2024.2 The FO explained to members they could declare any interest at the beginning of the meeting or when any particular matter was discussed. None were declared.

#### Minutes of the Meeting held 13 June 2023

2024.3 Minutes of the last meeting were circulated with the meeting papers. The minutes were taken as read. **DMT proposed and MD seconded the Minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman, all in agreement.**

#### Matters Arising Not Discussed Elsewhere

2024.4 There were none.

#### CEO's Report

The Clerk's report was read and approved.

#### Matters Arising

2024.5 **Legislation:** Eng discussed the Environment Act and whether drainage authorities can change their districts or change the annual value of land held in their districts, and confirmed the Clerk was monitoring the legislative status. It may mean land could be brought up to the most current rateable value if the changes are implemented. Eng said

*mtb*



the Clerk would advise if there was any benefit for the Board. MB asked how the windfarms might be rated, which depends on whether their land is subject to business rates or drainage rates.

**2024.6 Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy:** Members noted the information in the report.

**2024.7 Association of Drainage Authorities:** Eng informed the Board ADA were reviewing very high standing charges incurred by drainage authorities. For pumping stations standing charges may vary depending on the size of the transformer. Most of the time the supply is not used but standing charges are incurred even so. Eng said it may be possible to install inverters to reduce kWh but a change in kVA would mean a change in transformers. This is being monitored nationally through ADA and queried locally through suppliers, even though costs are relatively low for this Board. MJ agreed costs were relatively low and said the suppliers were seeking to finance the upgrade of the distribution network.

## Finance Report

The Financial report, copies of which had been circulated with the meeting papers, was considered and adopted by Members.

## Matters Arising

**2024.8 Rating:** The Finance Officer reported that all drainage rates and the special levy for 2023/24 were received, and the balance was nil.

**2024.9 Internal Audit:** Members noted the minutes of the Audit Review Panel that took place on 12 December 2023. The finance officer also gave a brief summary of the matters discussed, stating there was little to add to matters already discussed in previous years, meeting attendance being the main issue.

**2024.10 External Audit:** Members noted that audit for the year ended 31 March 2023 was complete with no matters arising.

**2024.11 Risk Register:** Members reviewed the draft Risk Register prepared on behalf of the Board. MJ said it was largely unchanged from the previous year with the only adjustment being to slightly downgrade the risks associated with high electricity costs in light of the somewhat stabilised economic climate. MJ reminded Members the core version of the document had already been scrutinised at the meeting of the Audit Review Panel mentioned above. DMT proposed the Board approve the Register, JO seconded, and all agreed.

**2024.12 Estimates for the Year Ending 31 March 2025:** MJ gave members a brief explanation of the estimates for the coming year and invited members to discuss options, stating the estimates should be reviewed in conjunction with the five-year forecast in the next section.

**2024.13 Maintenance Costs:** In order to approve the budget for 2024/25 MJ encouraged members to discuss their maintenance arrangements and consider the likely costs involved. MD sought members' views on arrangements re maintenance, perhaps not with grass cutting but certainly with machines. DMT said the biggest issue was timing, owing in part to heavy rain which had started in mid-October and had never really stopped. MD said the works were largely complete, with only one or two small dykes remaining. There were however a number of performance concerns raised and a query raised over considering tenders. Eng highlighted two other Contractor options which the Board may wish to consider through quotation. The Board discussed the various options as well as noting flailing incomplete, late delivery and arising placement. Eng discussed options and indicated the incumbent could carry out the flailing with a separate contractor to de-weed and desilt if preferred. DMT said the split between flailing and desilting might be ok, but

*WMS*



there could be complaints between the parties. MD said there may be issues with one holding the other up. Eng agreed from past experiences. DMT said the Board should be able to make a decision in June. Eng said invoices will be reviewed on past metreage and quotes could be obtained, though a full tender would not be necessary. JO said the situation could be difficult as everyone requires the services of the contractors at the same time. MD said the Board should go ahead with quotes.

**2024.14 Drainage Rates and Special Levies for the Year Ending 31 March 2025:** Following the long discussion previously **MB proposed the rate be increased by 0.5p to 24.00p in the £. MD seconded.**

**2024.15 Schedule of Payments:** The Board approved for signature by the Chairman a schedule of payments made since the last meeting totalling £22,182.70, of which £13,704.81 were paid by direct debit or approved by the Officers only. MD asked if we need to report to NPower that generators were required to provide electricity around the Swinefleet area from 20 October 2023 to 20 December 2023. MD said the problem related to wires through fast-tracks. Works couldn't go ahead until a licence was found to work around the badgers. JO said Swinefleet was out for a while. **DMT proposed the Board approve the schedule and MD seconded.**

## Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report was read and approved.

## Matters Arising

**2024.16 Natural England:** The Engineer informed the Board about Goole Moors Management Group and MD said several persons had been invited to attend and it would be good for a Board Officer to also attend. Eng said he would be happy to support the Chairman or a representative of the Board and for either Eng or Clerk to attend. DMT noted he had been asked to Chair the meeting.

Eng confirmed that Natural England were to produce a volume balance to confirm how much extra water was coming into the district. Natural England may contribute to making changes in the District depending on the results of the volume balance.

MB asked if they are looking to purchase the Moors from farmers, would they be able to take more control. Eng noted if NE were to own the land, they would maintain more control and could manage more effectively. From the IDB point of view the less you own the better.

**2024.17 Associated British Ports:** Eng informed the Board he had continued to chase the matter up and responses had been received. Their Estates Team wishes to set up a Teams meeting about establishing who is responsible for the structure. If the Board wishes to send in their contractor, they can do so with the owner's permission but the owner has still to be determined. Eng said he would like the EA involved as it is a main river. However, if a situation were to arise where the doors are leaking or lodged, they could inform ABP and/or in an emergency the Board could send in a contractor if ABP were not to respond. MD said it must be a problem now as it was recently reported as backing up. Eng said any pictures would be useful and could be passed on to ABP. MB said he went down to check the seal which needs replacing. MB said will review again, and possibly take some pictures. Eng said ABP may not find any documents but it was not the Board's responsibility as outside district. DMT asked if Highways have any involvement. Eng said potentially, but only under the road and not the outfall and the structure is not solely serving the highway. MO said he always thought it was ABP. Eng said he would report back through the Chairman on the future meeting.

*MTS*



**Environmental Report**

The Environmental Report circulated with the Meeting Papers was read and approved.

**2024.18 Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025:** Members noted the information and noted that this matter was always raised in IDB1 forms.

**Health & Safety Report**

The report which was circulated to members was read and noted by members.

**Any Other Business**

**2024.19** There were no matters raised.

**Date of next meeting**

**2024.20** The meeting was closed at approximately 2:10pm. The next main meeting will take place at 1:00pm on Tuesday, 11 June 2024, with the venue likely to be Swinefleet Village Hall once again.

WFA