

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Board** at a Meeting held at 47 Norfolk Street, Boston PE21 6LL on
Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Present: -

Messrs:	P. Bedford	C. Hardy
	B. Bowles	Dr. M Kumar
	A. Bush	D. Middleton
	A. Carr	P. Richardson (Chairman)
	C. Crunkhorn	A. Saul
	S. Evans	K. Smith
	M. Leggott	J. Ward
	(Vice Chairman)	J. Woods

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

M. Leggott proposed P. Richardson continue as Chairman of the Board. He felt he had done, and continues to do, an excellent job. This was seconded by S. Evans.

Unanimously Resolved that P. Richardson be elected Chairman for a final 3-year term.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

C. Crunkhorn had decided to stand down from this position after a 6-year period. He had very much enjoyed his tenure but felt it was time for somebody new to take up the challenge. He believed that the new Vice-Chairman would be very lucky to have the support of the Chairman and the Management Team. He would, however, remain as Chairman of the Governance & Risk Committee.

J. Ward proposed that M. Leggott be Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by B. Bowles.

Unanimously Resolved that M. Leggott be elected Vice-Chairman for a 3-year term.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

3.1 **Welcome to New Members**

The Chairman expressed a warm welcome to elected members A. Bush, A. Carr and to Dr. M Kumar appointed by Boston Borough Council and said he looked forward to their input.

3.2 **Thank you**

The Chairman extended his thanks to The Chief Executive and the Chief Engineer for an excellent presentation regarding the new Hobhole Pumping Station project before the Board meeting. This was the largest project ever undertaken by the Board and he was confident the Board was in safe hands with the team managing the project.

3.3 **Kevin Dickinson**

The Chairman confirmed that Kevin had decided to retire from the Board after an amazing 45 years' service. The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, wished Kevin a long and happy retirement.

3.4 **Alan Harrison**

Finally, the Chairman was pleased to present Alan Harrison with an engraved crystal clock in recognition of his 28 years' service to the Board. The Chairman thanked him for his dedication, service and contribution to the Board. Alan said that he had enjoyed his time on the Board.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

The Chief Executive confirmed that apologies had been received from T. Ashton, A. Hall, R. Hall-Jones, S. Welberry and D. Scoot.

5. **Declaration of Interest on Any General Item**
Outer Dowsing and wind farm cable route – A. Saul, K. Smith and A. Bush.

6. **MINUTES**

6.1 **Board Meeting – Wednesday 11 September 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 11 September 2024 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

7 **MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE & RISK COMMITTEE – 14 November 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2024 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Committee's Chairman.

The Chief Executive confirmed for new Board Members that the Board were subject to 2 audits. One Internal Audit for which we had been awarded substantial assurance and an external audit which had come back as a clean audit. The Chief Executive confirmed that as a result Board Members could feel confident in the financial processes and procedures in place.

The Committee Chairman confirmed that the Governance policies had been thoroughly reviewed and there was nothing to highlight aside from the change to the risk Register as a result of the Hobhole Pumping Station project.

The Committee Chairman asked for the Board's approval of the updated Risk Register.

There was unanimous approval and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the updated Risk Register be adopted by the Board.

The Chief Executive confirmed with regard to the Financial Regulations a change had been proposed to streamline the target of reaching 25% of the General Reserve by 2027 rather than referring to this each year.

The Chief Executive raised the issue of procuring services from Eversheds in relation to the Hobhole Pumping Station project. Normally any contracts with a value in excess of £30k are put out for 3 tenders however in this instance, specialised legal knowledge was required and Eversheds had sufficient experience and skills to advise on this project and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed. It was felt that the costs had already been reduced because of all the preparation work done by the Chief Executive and the Chief Engineer.

The Board were asked to endorse this procurement. ***There was unanimous approval***

The Chief Executive also confirmed that with regard to the Hobhole Pumping Station project, both he and the Chief Engineer would feel more comfortable if the Board were to sign off the contract in January. The Contracts were of such large value that the Board needed to be fully updated and happy to approve them. The Chairman was 100% supportive that the same should be brought to Board before sign-off in the New Year.

The Chief Executive confirmed the Finance meeting would be held on 15th January 2025 and a presentation would be made to the Board before this meeting. The Chief Engineer believed that this would be a good time to update the Board fully on the progress made. The Chairman added that full details would also be e-mailed to all Board Members.

The Committee Chairman asked for the Board's approval of the revised Finance Regulations.

There was unanimous approval and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Finance Regulations be adopted by the Board.
RESOLVED to aim to get the General Reserve to 25% of annual expenditure by 2027.

8. **MINUTES OF WORKS COMMITTEE – 14 November 2023**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2024 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Committee Chairman.

The Chief Engineer confirmed for new members that the Works Committee discussed the issues raised at the meeting and bought the agreed recommendations to the Board.

- A. Saul - asked with regard to the notice of intended entry if the landowner had to provide details of the value of the land? The Engineering Manager confirmed that evidence of the land value would be required before compensation could be paid. To simplify matters, the land would be graded. Grade 1 being the highest value, Grade 2 – medium value land and Grade 3 lowest value land.
- B. Bowles - confirmed most landowners would know the value of their land.

The Chief Engineer asked if the Board would approve the Notices of Entry and Compensation policy. This was proposed by A. Saul and seconded by K. Smith.

There was unanimous approval and it was therefore:

RESOLVED that the Notices of Entry and Compensation policy be approved

8.1 **Upper Hobhole Dredging Scheme**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that this work was critical and needed to be started as a matter of urgency. This would tackle the issue of water conveyance and the problem areas had already been identified which had enabled him to prioritise the workload. At the present time, funding for the full project was not confirmed the first phase of the project was to be funded from the General reserve

The Chief Engineer asked the Board if they would be prepared to approve the Hobhole Dredging Scheme to be completed over a 3-year period.

This was proposed by K. Smith and seconded by A. Saul.

There was unanimous approval and it was therefore:

RESOLVED approval of the Upper Hobhole Dredging Scheme, **c.£850,200** phased over three years **£500,500** estimated for 2025/26.

8.2 **CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATES 2025/2026**
Weed Control Estimates

The Chief Engineer took the Board Members through the estimates and asked for the Board's approval for Weed Control and Cleansing Estimate 2025-2026 be adopted. A. Saul proposed this and P. Bedford seconded it. *There was unanimous approval* and it was therefore:

RESOLVED that the following Estimates be approved

i)	Weed Control	£1,000,768
ii)	Cleansing	£ 792,706

8.3. **Asset Improvement Programme**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the small increase in the Asset Improvement Estimate was in relation to the Leverton Pumping Station feasibility study. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Grant in Aid funding is not available. The Chief Engineer said he was confident it was viable scheme either for repair or replacement and that he wanted to keep momentum going so the work would commence and an application for funding would be made at a future date.

The Chairman confirmed that there was no guarantee that the funds would be recovered and that the monies could be taken from the Pumping Stations Renewals fund which would not make any impact on the rate. The Vice Chairmen felt that the funds should be taken from the Pumping Stations Renewals fund as he was mindful of the affect any rate increase would have on colleagues sitting on the councils.

J. Woods - was concerned what would happen in the event of multiple weather events. Where would funds come from? The Chairman confirmed that in this instance the Board would look to all its reserves but the cost would not be passed to the ratepayers. In such circumstances it would be hoped the Government would assist. Long periods of prolonged pumping were more of an issue than “short, sharp shock” pumping.

K. Smith -supported taking the required funds form the Pumping Station Renewals Fund as this money had been put there to help with such works and should be used for this reason.

The Chairman also added that, at present, the Recovery Fund was available although he did not envisage this would be the case if it became a more common occurrence. A new pumping station would be much more efficient, less labour intensive and more cost effective.

The Chief Engineer asked if he could ask for the Board’s approval for the Asset Improvement Programme Estimate 2025-2026 be adopted. *There was unanimous approval* and it was therefore:

RESOLVED that the following Estimate be approved

i)	Asset Improvement	£115,000
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9. **MINUTES OF PLANT & PUMPING STATIONS COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 November 2024 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

9.1 The Chief Engineer confirmed the Plant Replacement programme had been discussed in great detail at the Committee meeting. The Chief Engineer briefly ran through the items listed and confirmed that in relation to the GPS equipment detailed quotes would be obtained and referred back to Board before any purchase was made.

The Chief Engineer reiterated to the Board that the approval was to replace the existing JCB JS260 excavator and retained it to just complete the E.A. PSCA works, he also notified the Board that the Avant loader would be purchased with the intention of running it for at least 10 years.

The Chairman asked the Board to approve the 2025/26 Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee. This was proposed by P. Bedford and seconded by J. Ward. *There was unanimous approval* and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Board agree the Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee be approved

- (i) JCB JS260 Excavator at a net estimated cost of £240,000.00 plus VAT
- (ii) JCB JS220 Excavator at a net estimated cost of £210,000.00 plus VAT.
- (iii) Weedbasket 4.3m at a net estimated cost of £13,000.00 plus VAT
- (iv) Herder Cavalier Flail Mower at a net estimated cost of £84,000.00 plus VAT
- (v) Avant Loader at a net estimated cost of £55,000.00 plus VAT
- (vi) Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV at a net estimated cost of £40,000 plus VAT
- (vii) Tipper Trailer at a net estimated cost of £15,000 plus VAT * **possible purchase of 2 depending on discount***
- (viii) GPS Survey Equipment at a net estimated cost of between £36,000 plus VAT and £61,000 plus VAT depending upon further investigation
- (ix) Pile Hammer at a net estimated cost of £30,000 plus VAT

9.2 Estimate for Pumping Stations 2025/2026

The Chief Engineer asked the Board to approve the 2025/26 Estimates for Pumping Stations recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee. The Board should be aware that the current fixed rate electricity tariff ended in October but he and the Chief Executive would be having discussions with the electric broker before the rate was set at the February meeting. This was proposed by P. Bedford and seconded by J. Woods. *There was unanimous approval* and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Board approves the Pumping Station Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee.

	2025/26 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate
Pumping Stations	£1,070,294	£1,051,687

9.3 Depot Estimate 2025/2026

The Chairman asked the Board to approve the 2025/26 Depot Estimate recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee. *There was unanimous approval* and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Board approves the Depot Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee.

	2025/26 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate
Pumping Stations	£53,000	£53,000

The Chief Executive added that at the recent Committee Meetings, D. Middleton had asked if the Board would be exempt from the recent increase in National Insurance contributions. The Chief Executive confirmed that unfortunately the Board was not exempt and this would incur an additional £12k. The Chief Executive confirmed, for the sake of new members, any machinery purchases would not impact the rate but any purchases for the pumping stations or workshop would.

10 **MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2024**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2024 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

The Committee Chairman outlined the main points covered in the Minutes of the Environment report which he would take as read. He confirmed that the BAP was a very comprehensive document which demonstrated the Board's commitment to its' environmental responsibilities. The Vice-Chairman confirmed that in relation to his comments regarding the swan nesting platforms what he was asking was that if the swans did not use the platforms would the Board bother replacing them?

B. Bowles - confirmed the new pumping station was running well with exception to the issue of the route of the outfall. The Chairman agreed this was an issue and the Board wanted to connect to the old channel. Marine Management Organisation ("MMO") and Natural England ("NE") have all been made aware of the issues. The Chief Engineer confirmed the Environment Agency ("EA") were also aware and if they decreed repairs were necessary then the Board would complete them. The Chief Engineer had raised the preferred route of the outfall with MMO and NE but their delays in dealing with this has resulted in a completed project before agreement could be reached. Any rectification works authorised would now have to wait until Spring 2025.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that he had sent video evidence and a plan of the works the Board wanted to do, which initially included some stoning work but not the outfall channel asking why this could not be completed. If the Board is authorised to proceed it would take a few weeks for MMO to amend the licence.

B. Bowles - confirmed this was good news.

J. Woods - confirmed he had received a call from the main landowner affected and said that he was very fired up and did not feel that things had been fairly done. He had explained that the Board was doing everything possible within the constraints. The quality of the project delivered was absolutely fantastic and he felt that some time had to be allowed for things to settle down and bed in properly. He did not want the whole project to be tarnished by this one issue,

The Chairman asked the Board to approve the 2025/26 Estimate recommended by the Environment Committee. This was proposed by J. Woods and seconded by A. Carr. There was unanimous approval and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Board adopt the 2025/2026 Estimate recommended by the Environment Committee in the sum of £105,093. (2024/2025 Estimate £99,925)

11 **MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

11.1 The Chief Executive confirmed he would just raise some of the highlights and referred Board Members to Page 4 of the report detailing EA Update. The lower Witham Strategy would include the replacement of doors at Grand Sluice and in particular these works would include refurbishment of the Grand Sluice and lock.

D. Middleton - asked which lock this was? The Chief Executive confirmed it was the one next to Sluice Bridge and this should speed up the outfall of water. In fact Cllr. T. Ashton had asked the EA for the speed of the rate of discharge but was waiting for a response.

The Chief Executive referred Board Members to page 5 regarding the ADA Board Meeting and the section regarding the Company Secretary update. The Chief Executive was pleased to confirm that Peter Richardson had been appointed ADA Director for the Lincolnshire branch in place of Keith Casswell.

C. Crunkhorn - asked if the good governance guide had been released? The Chief Executive confirmed that it had not yet been released but agreed it was a good read for Board Members and would be useful for new members. There would also be a good governance workshop available.

Finally, the Chief Executive referred members to the last meeting which was RFCC Meeting. There was special interest in special levies and the impact on affected councils. DEFRA launched a review of IDBs and the associated costs which was being carried out by JBA. Unfortunately, there was a conflict of interest as JBA provide services to 9 drainage boards in the Yorkshire and Nottingham area.

With regard to the Lincolnshire coast with Deborah Highton, the Chief Executive confirmed that unfortunately, nowhere lower than Gibraltar Point was being looked at as there were other areas that required attention with eroding hard defences.

12. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE MANAGERS REPORT**

12.1 **Bank Balances**

The Chief Executive confirmed for the benefit of new members that the Board received money from the Recovery Fund and grant income from the EA which had replenished the General Reserve to pre-Storm Babet levels. The funds had also enabled some essential repairs to the slips and dredging work to be to be planned. The Governance and Risk Committee review the General Reserve and the aim is to get the Reserve to 25% of annual expenditure by 2027. This is being accomplished by adding money each year. £35k is the equivalent of 1% added to the rate.

12.2 **Fixed Term Deposits**

The Board have also invested £1.5m in an account with CCLA which yields a monthly return of circa £6,500. No funds received from the EA can be invested in the fund and this return assists in mitigating rate rises.

12.3 **Payments Made**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the larger payments made were all in respect of the Wrangle and Hobhole Pumping Station projects.

12.4 **Rating Income**

The Chief Executive confirmed that rating income collection was appropriate for this time of the year. The initial rates were £1.7m and 14% of the rates remains outstanding. £150k of the outstanding balance relates to instalment payments. The Chief Executive confirmed there were no concerns regarding the rates.

12.5 **Rating Amendments**

12.5.1 **New Glasshouses**

The Chief Executive confirmed that any variations to the ratings valuation is brought to the Board. This year there is one large landowner who had built some large glasshouses. A valuation had been carried out by Brown & Co and the result was an additional £25k to be added to the rating income for 2025/26.

12.5.2 **Removal of developed land**

There was a small development of land totalling 1.6ha which would be removed from the ratings. There was also a solar farm which had been included in the agenda but it has since transpired that planning permission was for a "temporary" site and business rates had not been applied, so the land would remain rated.

12.5.3 **Removal of certain rated land north of EA Catchwater**

The Chief Executive confirmed that one ratepayer in this district had refused to make payment of his drainage rates for the past 3 years as a protest because his property has a drainage issue as the land drains into the EA's Catchwater and water is unable to discharge. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Board has tried to work with the EA and provided them with a quote to remove silt from the worst affected areas however the EA currently has no funds available with which to complete the work.

The Chief Executive suggested there were options open to the Board for consideration:-

- (i) Pursue recovery of the 3 years' unpaid drainage rates
- (ii) Reduce the cost of the value of land to one of the lowest available £10 per acre)
- (iii) Remove the land from the ratings system.

C. Hardy - asked if this was the only ratepayer in the area refusing to pay? The Chief Executive confirmed he was.

B. Bowles - stated no drainage then no payment. The Chief Executive confirmed that he was paying for rate for poor quality land which had been exacerbated by 20 years of poor maintenance however he was mindful not to set a precedent.

The Chairman felt option 1 was not really fair, option 3 was not feasible bearing in mind that the situation may improve in the future so he felt it best to reduce the land value rate.

J. Woods - asked if the 3 years arrears would be paid before any reduction was made?

C. Hardy - agreed the ratepayer was not receiving a service. The Chief Executive agreed that he was not but that that was not the Boards' fault.

A. Bush - asked how much land was affected?. The Chief Executive confirmed 30ha.

C. Crunkhorn - said it should not be option 3.

The Chief Executive confirmed it would be possible to obtain an official valuation of the land which would probably be more than £10 per acre.

K. Smith - asked if the intention was to reduce all the land? The Chief Executive confirmed this one would be in the region of £4k or £15k for all landowners in the area.

The Chief Engineer confirmed there were some gravity outfalls in the area which were board maintained but really this was a riparian issue. The Chief Executive confirmed that every ratepayer had the option to appeal the rates.

J. Woods - asked if the landowner could do anything to help himself? The Chief Engineer confirmed he could use a submersible pump.

D. Middleton - asked if the EA had been approached? The Chief Executive confirmed they had numerous times.

A. Bush - confirmed he had refused to pay the EA general drainage charge rates following Storm Babet and had never been chased for payment.

It was agreed that the rateable area affected would be quantified and showed on a map and would be considered at the February Board meeting.

12.6 **DRS 365 – New Drainage Rate System**

The Chief Executive confirmed that he and the Ratings Officer had recently attended the Water Management Alliance's offices in Kings Lynn to see the new ratings system in action. The new system was very similar to the old system with a few new options which would make life easier. It was now possible to send rate remands/statements by e-mail. It is also possible to link the maps to DRS which would make the Ratings Officer's life much easier. Should the Board wish to proceed to the new platform there would be a one-off £10k charge for migration and training and for the transfer of the Board's DRS records. Thereafter the annual maintenance charge is £5k. At present the maintenance charge is £1,030.

The Board were asked to support the move to DRS 365. J. Ward proposed the move to DRS 365 which was seconded by K. Smith. There was unanimous approval and it was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Board adopt the DRS 365 platform at an initial cost of £10,000 with a subsequent maintenance fee of £5,000

12.7 **Expenditure to October 31**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the estimate for the 7-month period was 58% of target and at present the Board was on target, although there had not yet been any prolonged period of rain.

13. **CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that, as ever, he would take his report as read and would just provide Board Members of any updates as he went through the report.

13.1 **Pump Hours**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the pump hours for the year were 14k compared to 11k to the same point last year. This was as a result of the wet start to the year. 628 hours pumping had been completed in November.

13.2 **Rainfall**

The Chief Engineer confirmed rainfall this year was 612mm compared to 641mm to the same point last year. 52.1mm of rain had been received for November.

13.3 **Water Level Management**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the levels had been lowered right across the district and had been at winter levels since the end of September. Best use was being made of sluicing at Hobhole Pumping Station to save on electric costs.

13.4 **Water Quality**

The Chief Engineer referred Board Members to paragraph 2.3.5 of his report dealing with salinity readings taken at numerous sites across the district. Some readings had been high, with an average of 1300ppm. The Chief Engineer did not believe that this was an upward trend it was just this year.

13.5 **Soil Moisture Deficit**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the soil moisture in the catchment had remained at 105mm until September, however, 160mm of rain through September and October had reduced this to the soil now being completely saturated.

13.6 **Channel Maintenance Operations**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the weed cutting was slightly lower than expected but he was aiming to have this completed by Christmas. The slip repairs were ongoing and the Sewer Mudding Programme would commence in the new year.

13.7 **Planning**

The Engineering Manager advised he would take the report as read but would just raise issues of interest for the Board.

Paragraph 5.4.1 of his report dealt with the Grimsby to Walpole project. This was one of a number of infrastructure projects affecting the area and the Board had had a number of conversations with the developers.

Paragraph 5.4.3 of his report was in relation to a well-known site and mitigation measures had now been included on the north end of the site regarding the issue of ground raising. The Chief Engineer added that ground raising affects existing properties and filter drainage needed to be installed where ground levels are raised on a site.

Paragraph 5.4.4 relates to a site for 148 proposed dwellings which is in the Board's extended area where the Board have asked to be consulted.

D. Middleton - asked if the standard response warns people of the 9m rule? The Engineering Manager confirmed that the team member dealing comments on every application.

D. Middleton - asked about the Board's record of enforcement? The Engineering Manager confirmed paragraph 16.9 shows 19 cases where enforcement had taken place. The Board take this issue very seriously.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that Page 10 item 1 shows the standard responses used. The Chief Executive added that where developers contravene this information mitigation measures have to be taken which in turn incurs additional costs.

D. Middleton - asked if the response is sent to the planning authority as well as the developer? The Engineering Manager confirmed that first there is a conversation, followed by 2 letters. At the 3rd letter stage, advice is sought from the Board's solicitors and then a view is made on enforcement. The Chief Engineer added that the Board had approved the easement policy in 2021 where the Boards requirements are well defined.

The Chairman added there was also guidance on-line.

13.8 **Plant & Equipment**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that delivery of the Excavator had been delayed to March.

13.9 **Mareham -Le-Fen Pipe Lining**

The Chief Engineer confirmed this was originally the Ruth King & Son (Reepham) Ltd Development site where the Board took £25k as a commuted sum for the required works. The works had now been completed.

13.10 **Recovery Fund**

The Chief Engineer referred Board Members to the table in his report which showed how the received funds were due to be allocated. The Board had received £1.4m from Tranche 1.

The Chief Engineer confirmed the operational expenditure incurred in dealing with the EA water was £748k. £420k for slip repairs and £150k for pumping plant repairs. £80k had been spent on new mobile pumps.

Tranche 2 of the funding was now open and the Board would be making another bid. A claim in respect of phase 1 of the Hobhole dredging project would be made but the funds received needed to be spent by March 2026. Any works carried out the following year would be funded from the reserves.

14 **Capital Projects**

The Chief Executive referred Board Members to the A3 pull out sheet which was the Boards' Capital Investment Fund. The blue line showed the current year, assets were shown in the bottom half and there were 2 separate very detailed reports regarding the pumping stations. At the end of the current year there was £388k in the fund. The plan also detailed what is required to get the assets up to date.

In 2027/28 the Board needs to add £300k each year to the fund which equates to an 8% rate increase. This would enable the Board to develop and the fund shows a way to demonstrate that the assets will not fall into disrepair.

14.1 **Wrangle Pumping Station**

The Chief Engineer confirmed an update had already been given regarding the outfall issue, the project is largely complete apart from some small mechanical/electrical issues.. The Chief Engineer confirmed he was very pleased with the project aside from the outfall issue. The pumping station as working well and runs at low speeds for longer hours. The pumping station used very low volumes of energy and the Chief Engineer would bring details of this to the future Board meeting.

With regard to the risk sums accepted in the project these change as events happen. Jacksons claimed £265k of change event compensation claims and these were assessed by the Project Manager and settled at £210k. Aquatic Control Engineering submitted a claim for £187k of

change event compensation claims, this was settled at £177k. works outside of the contract totalled £114k. A variation claim has been submitted to the EA.

The efficiencies in the project had been listed and these totalled £255k.

15. **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Chief Engineer said he would take the report as read as an update of all Health & Safety matters. This issue was constantly evolving and the next Health & Safety committee meeting was set for 5th February 2025.

16. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Chairman confirmed the dates for the next meeting which was the Finance Committee on 15th January 2025. The Vice-Chairman gave apologies for himself and K. Smith in advance as they would be unable to attend.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman confirmed it just remained for him to thank Charles Crunkhorn for his contribution as Vice-Chairman and to extend best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 4.00pm.

Chairman