

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Environment Committee** at a Meeting held at the Board's Office, 47 Norfolk Street, Boston on Wednesday 22 November 2017.

Present - B. Beales (Committee Chairman)
Members - T. Archer
A. Harlow
J. E. Green (Chairman)
P. Richardson (Vice Chairman)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for non attendance were received from:

Members -

Ms M Davis

2. **ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Assistant Engineer ran through the Environmental Report:

2.1 **Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) Update**

Sustainability (SAP) updates of all local SAP's and the key sites were to protect species and habitats, maintain and restore wet systems, achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry, make farming more sustainable and sea health, combat other invasive species and help stop the loss of global biodiversity targets. This was created in 2015 and is ceasing to end (2020). We are waiting for advice on what happens next, when the SSSI Strategy has expired.

The Assistant Engineer confirmed that he had passed this up following the departure of Martin Redding and the Board continues to work towards the targets set. Lincsshire ACA has published a "Quick Wins" document which gives ideas for low cost environmental improvements. The Assistant Engineer is reviewing the same with a view to implementation of small practical improvements with minimum cost.

2.2 **EC Monitoring at Hobbins & Lake Bank Pumping Station**

The changes to pumping agreed by the Board are now being implemented. The pumps have been running between 7am and 9pm and this will continue until 31st January 2018 in an effort to avoid killing eels that would pass through the pumps during migration. Cameras have been set up at the pumping station and tagged eels are being monitored. We will have to wait for results of the survey. The second dash phase of the river has just passed and we have managed to control flows through the dash dam.

2.3 **Wynolds New Bank Pumping Station**

The Assistant Engineer confirmed that, as per the report, the work was due to start on Monday, 20th November.

2.4 **The Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site**

The Assistant Engineer confirmed that we continue to attend meetings and pay our subscriptions to fund the project. Tom Lee who was running the project was doing an excellent job.

2.5 **Wink Control**

There are currently eels in the system this year as the mesh traps have been removed.

2.6 **Boston Borough Council Operation Project**

We continue to attend meeting and pay an annual subscription to fund the project.