

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at a Meeting held at the Board's Office, 47 Norfolk Street, Boston on Tuesday 18 January 2017.

Present: J.E. Grant (Chairman)

Members:	B. Austin	C. Hardy	B. Leggett
	B. Bowles	A. Harrison	P. Richardson
	B. Brooks	R. Hall-Jones	J. Wood

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:-

Members:	T. Ashton	N. Jones
		J. Wood

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

2. RESOLUTIONS

The Chief Executive presented his 10 page memorandum to the Committee, which covered the business set out for the current year, a rate history and the estimate for 2017/18.

2.1 Recent Estimate for the Year 2016/17

This was forecast to cover a deficit of £10k but this included the cost of repairs to the gearbox at Holmde Pumping station which had not been included in the estimates. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had waited until the end of December to prepare the figures as the figures shown were an actual 4 month figure.

A. Harrison asked if there was any change in the level of the work done since the numbers were brought back up to full capacity. The Engineering Manager confirmed there was no change to the numbers.

B. Austin asked what was regarded as a prudent reserve. The Chief Executive confirmed that, as with all public bodies, 20% of the annual spend which in his instance was £2600,000. There were other reserves but these were all specific to loans such as pumping stations.

B. Leggett commented that there could be an increase or a shortfall in the reserve but this would all be dependent upon events up to the end of March. The Chief Executive referred Members to page 6 of his report and confirmed that the estimates had been 98% accurate, on average, over the past few years.

A. Harrison asked whether any allowance had been made for the staffing of the meeting programme. The Engineering Manager said no but that we were hoping to start this soon but the Board's approval was still required. The Chief Executive said that the Engineering Manager had been asked to obtain an estimate from a contractor which he believed was approximately £120,000. The Engineering Manager said that this figure did not include any additional costs such as calling or spreading costs and the final figure would be nearer to £140,000 - £145,000. The Chief Executive confirmed that the sum of £140,000 had not been included in the operating estimates as there were other options to investigate, such as grant in aid. The Chief Executive advised the Members that £25,000 additional costs equated to 1% being added to the rate.