

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Board** at a Meeting held at the Board's Offices, 47 Norfolk Street, Boston on **Wednesday, 12th December 2018**

Present: -

Messrs:

T. Ashton	R. Hall-Jones
R. Austin	N. Jones
P. Bedford	R. Leggott
B. Bowles	P. Richardson
C. Brotherton	A. Saul
M. Cooper	P. Skinner
Mrs P. Cooper	A. Spencer
C. Crunkhorn	J. Ward
J. Grant	R. Williams
C. Hardy	J. Woods
A. Harrison	

1 **DECLARED RESULTS OF THE 2018 TRIENNIAL ELECTION**

The Chief Executive opened the meeting and confirmed that as a result of Hugh Drake's retirement, there had been an election in the East Fen area. The four successful candidates (J. Grant, R. Hall-Jones, A. Saul and K. Smith) had been notified by e-mail and the results had been advertised in the press. K. Smith used to represent East Lindsey District Council but was unable to attend the meeting today as he was on holiday. He would be officially welcomed to the Board at the next meeting.

2 **APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN**

The Chief Executive asked if there were any nominations for the role of Chairman. N. Jones nominated P. Richardson. P. Richardson accepted the nomination. R. Leggott nominated J. Grant and J. Grant accepted the nomination. However, J. Grant confirmed that he was aware of the governance issue raised in the recent Governance & Risk meeting regarding the Chairman's length of term but was uncertain as to the Board's view. If the Board decided they wished to adhere to the Governance guidance, he would accept that view and would not accept the nomination. J. Grant then left the room for the Board to consider its options.

The Chairman of the Governance & Risk Committee referred the Board to the Governance guide and confirmed that paragraph 3.7.3 referred to a maximum term of 10 years for Chairman unless there were exceptional circumstances. Board members had all had the opportunity to read through the documents and he asked for the Board's view upon this item which was of particular concern to him.

R. Leggott - stated guidance was simply that and not a hard and fast rule. He was concerned that J. Grant's valuable experience would be lost if he were not re-elected. He felt it would be better to allow him to continue for a further term of, say two years, and during that time he could nurture Mr. Richardson as Vice-Chairman in readiness to take over.

C. Crunkhorn - confirmed that Mr. Grant had indicated he would remain on the Board, so we would not be losing his expertise.

R. Hall-Jones - confirmed that he had previously served as Vice-Chairman to Mr. Grant for a period of approximately 9 years and he would have liked to have been the Chairman, but nobody could dispute Mr. Grant's passion for drainage. He agreed Mr. Grant should serve a further term whilst nurturing Mr. Richardson, as Vice-Chairman to succeed him

- N. Jones - felt uncomfortable with this situation and believed that the Board should follow the guidance. The Board were not losing Mr. Grant and he would still be available to support Mr. Richardson, should he become Chairman.
- M. Cooper - sat on the Governance & Risk Committee and this had been discussed at length. He believed that guidance was there for a reason and that it should be adhered to. He was wary of retaining people in roles for a long time and fresh views were always needed.
- B. Bowles - agreed Mr. Grant had been an excellent Chairman but that it was the Board as a whole that mattered not just one figure. Each member had value which they brought to the Board. He felt this was a very difficult decision.
- C. Crunkhorn - agreed it was difficult and the Committee agreed that it was not all about the Chairman. This Board is lucky to have an excellent Chief Executive, Chief Engineer and to have so many experienced members on the Board.
- T. Ashton - confirmed this was not a personal issue and rules and governance were put in place for good reason and should be adhered to. This Board was professional and should support the ADA guidelines. He felt this was not about any one individual but rather what was in the best interests of the Board.
- R, Williams - agreed that rules were put in place for a reason. The Chairman had been on the Board for many years and had been a very good Chairman, but he felt that it was time for a change.
- J. Ward - asked if the term was 2 terms or 10 years.
The Chief Executive confirmed that 10 years was the maximum term stated in the guidance, but for our Board it was 3 years x 3 terms.
- C. Hardy - added this was a very difficult decision. Mr. Grant had done an excellent job, but the guidance needed careful consideration.
- C. Crunkhorn - agreed he had been an excellent Chairman, but the Board had to consider governance.
The Chief Executive confirmed that the outcome of the decision regarding governance would determine whether or not Mr. Grant would stand for Chairman.
- A. Saul - asked what risk there would be if the Board did not accept the policy?
The Chief Executive confirmed that the Board was being asked whether to accept the policy or accept the policy with the exclusion of paragraph 3.7.3
- A. Saul - confirmed that the outcome of not complying with the policy needed careful consideration.
- R. Leggott - was very concerned that the decision to select the Board's chairman was being influenced by "outside" governance rather than guidance and experience from the Board.
- P. Bedford - agreed with R. Leggott and felt Mr. Grant had done an excellent job and he should be allowed to continue for a short term whilst guiding Mr. Richardson as Vice-Chairman. The governance document was only a guide.
- C. Crunkhorn - added that Mr. Grant had previously confirmed that this term would be his last.
- A. Spencer - confirmed the Board needed to weigh up the decision not to accept the policy against the risk to the Board if Mr. Grant were removed as Chairman. He felt there was a possibility for a slow handover, but he did not have enough experience of the Board to make that decision.
- P. Richardson - added that he had been included in the nominations by default. The reason that he accepted the nomination for Chairman was that he felt that the Board is bigger than any one person. He felt that any new Chairman should not stay too long and that looking at the Board we were an ageing Board with no youth coming through. He felt governance is critical especially as the Board is a public body and accountable as such.

The Chief Executive confirmed that there was no further debate and that a vote should be taken. He clarified that the Board were being asked whether paragraph 3.7.3 should be adopted. The result would dictate what would follow. The Chief Executive asked whether members would like to have a show of hands or a secret ballot. C. Brotherton proposed a secret ballot which was seconded by Cllr. P. Cooper and accepted by the Board.

R. Austin - clarified if a yes vote meant he accepted the guidance?

The Chief Executive confirmed that a yes vote would be to accept the policy inclusive of paragraph 3.7.3. If members did not want to adopt paragraph 3.7.3 then they would vote no. If the policy is accepted Mr. Grant would then decide whether he would like to stand for Chairman.

Ballot papers were handed out to each Board Member and then collected and counted. The Chief Executive Officer declared the result: -

Yes Vote – 14 votes

No Vote – 6 votes

The Chief Executive confirmed the result to the Board and then left the room to convey the results to Mr. Grant. The Chief Executive and Mr. Grant returned to the Boardroom and Mr. Grant thanked the Board for stating their preferred option and withdrew his nomination and proposed that Mr. Richardson be nominated as Chairman. This was seconded by N. Jones. The new Chairman was invited to take his seat.

The Chairman thanked the Board and said he appreciated that it had been a very difficult and uncomfortable situation for Board members. He confirmed that he did not have the level of technical knowledge of Mr. Grant and that he would be relying upon Mr. Grant's expertise. There would be many hurdles to cross looking forwards and there may not always be funding available to deal with these, as there had been over the past few years.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD'S VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman nominated C. Crunkhorn as Vice Chairman. J. Ward seconded the nomination and C. Crunkhorn accepted the nomination. He then asked for other nominations and N. Jones nominated T. Ashton as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by R. Williams. There then followed another secret ballot.

Ballot papers were handed out to each Board Member and then collected and counted and the Chief Executive Officer declared the result: -

C. Crunkhorn – 15 votes

T. Ashton – 6 votes

C. Crunkhorn took up his seat and thanked the Board for their support.

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Chief Executive confirmed that R. Williams had indicated a wish to sit on the Governance & Risk Committee and this was agreed. K. Smith had expressed an intention to sit on the Plant & Pumping Committee, but he would confirm this at the next Board meeting. J. Grant expressed a wish to sit on some committees and the Chairman confirmed that he would bring valuable knowledge to the committees.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman confirmed: -

- 5.1 Rob Barlow has been appointed as Chief Executive at East Lindsey District Council ("ELDC"). He had previously served as an s.151 officer for Boston Borough Council and ELDC and more recently had been the Deputy Chief Executive at ELDC.

The Chief Executive, together with the Chief Executive of Lindsey Marsh IDB, had recently met with Mr Barlow to discuss the current issues facing IDBs and to outline the recent capital

projects in their respective Districts. ELDC were able to articulate the extreme funding issues they face. Both IDB CEO's said they expected any rate rise in 2019/20 to be no more than 2% at worst.

5.2 Keith Ireland, LCC's new Chief Executive who attended the Board's inspection has left LCC at the end of November due to operational differences with LCC's leader Martin Hill.

5.3 The Chairman wanted to give thanks to J. Grant for all his work and efforts for the Board over the past sixteen years. The Chairman confirmed J. Grant's great passion for the Board which he knew would continue.

J. Grant - thanked the Board for their support during his time as Chairman. He said that he had enjoyed every minute of his time and it was an honour to have served the Board. He would continue to give the Board his full support during the tricky times ahead.

6 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: -

Messrs: K. Smith

7 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ANY GENERAL ITEM**

Declared an interest in discussions about Sea Banks– A. Saul and B. Bowles.

Declared an interest in discussions about Triton Knoll/Viking – J. Grant, P. Richardson, J. Ward and R. Leggott

R. Leggott declared an interest in item 6.2 Consent No NC382 of the Chief Engineer's Report.

8 **MINUTES**

8.1 **Board Meeting – Wednesday 19 September 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 19 September 2018 were submitted and subject to a minor amended with regard to numbering, agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

8.1.2 **Board's Triennial Inspection – 19th September 2018**

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had received very good feedback from our guests and he passed on his thanks to everybody concerned.

8.1.3 **Hugh Drake**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Board does have a gift for Hugh Drake, but he was not able to attend the meeting today. The gift will be presented at the next Board meeting in February 2019.

8.1.4 **Mooring of Boats**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that when this matter was discussed at the last Board meeting, R. Leggott had asked that the policy be amended to confirm that the Board accepted absolutely no liability for damage to the boat or users. The Chief Engineer confirmed that this had been reviewed and the policy had now been amended to include this.

R. Leggott - thanked the Chief Engineer

8.1.5 **Triton Knoll**

The Chairman confirmed that Triton Knoll insisted that full, correct PPE must be worn when entering their sites and that he had been refused entry on his own land to inspect the works. The Chief Engineer confirmed that Andy Carrott, the retired Engineering Manager, was still working in the office for two days a week dealing with the various consents and issues relating to Triton Knoll. A. Carrott has been through all the various Health and Safety courses and is able to access the Board's owned and maintained watercourses to ensure the work is being carried out correctly.

8.1.6 **Sandy Bank Drain – Bond Payment**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that in this instance, payment of the £250 bond had been received and the matter was closed. However, this case had prompted a review of the Board's operations policy and procedures, which had now been amended and Board Members had received a copy of the relevant extract.

R. Leggott - asked if the bond was variable?

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the amount of the bond would be related to the complexity of the consent required.

8.1.7 **2019 Meeting Dates**

The Chief Executive confirmed the meeting dates for 2019 as listed in the Agenda.

9. **MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE & RISK COMMITTEE – 21st November 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21st November 2018 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Committee Chairman.

The Committee Chairman ran through the Minutes and confirmed that the main item requiring the Board's approval was the Governance Code which had already been discussed. The Committee Chairman also referred the Board to 6.2 regarding the risk register. It had been agreed that the Chief Executive would prepare a first draft of this document which could then be discussed at a re-convened meeting in January 2019. The Chairman recommended that it be:

RESOLVED To deal with the Risk Register at a later date

The Chief Executive confirmed that it was also possible to obtain information regarding the Governance and Risk Guide on the ADA website.

C. Crunkhorn proposed that the Guide be approved. R. Williams seconded the proposal. It was therefore:

RESOLVED To adopt the Guide

9.1 **Policy Statement on Water Level and Flood Risk Management**

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had reviewed the Policy and had discussed it with the Chief Engineer, and the Chief Engineer had assured the Chief Executive that that was appropriate.

The Chief Executive apologised for the spelling mistake for Freiston at 9.4 and confirmed that he would ensure that the policy was corrected.

R. Williams proposed that the Policy be approved. A. Saul seconded the proposal. It was therefore:

RESOLVED To adopt the Policy and publish it on the Board's website

9.2 **Liaison with Boston Borough Council ("BBC") – CCTV**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Chief Engineer had a planned site meeting to calculate costs which would be followed by a discussion with BBC. At present, there was no further update.

9.3 **Property Investment Portfolio**

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had attended a meeting with BBC to discuss their portfolio. The Governance and Risk Committee had discussed changing the current wording on the Investment policy, which at present limits any investment to 12 months. Whilst no investments will be made until after March 2019, this change would enable the Board to look at longer term investment policies.

T. Ashton - confirmed he had experience of these kind of investments with 2 authorities and he felt it was the way to proceed as the rates were better in the long term.

- J. Grant* - urged caution as the Board has a relatively small fund of money but agreed if there was a way we could improve our investments then we should.
- P. Skinner* - agreed caution but believed an amendment to the policy wording was a good idea.
- A. Spencer* - confirmed the Council had invested monies which had been borrowed at a lower fixed interest rate and the results had been better than projected. However, BBC were looking at a plan for up to 50 years. However, it may be possible for them to remove the associated costs for the Board and invest money on the Board's behalf. The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be two-fold. Using our money and also potential borrowing. The Chairman confirmed the Board would remain cautious just investigating the possibilities and the benefits to the Board
- A. Spencer* - confirmed the CCTV package they could offer the Board was on hold at present as they are considering investment into CCTV which could in turn reduce costs to the Board. Hopefully, within 6 months the Council will be able to put forward a proposal to the Board.
- J. Grant* - commented there had been a scathing article in the Telegraph recently concerning the huge cost implications when investment in property goes wrong.
- T. Ashton* - confirmed that there was a slight level of risk in this type of investment. When public money was at stake, councils are not allowed to buy into higher risk investment.
- C. Crunkhorn* - added that because of the business we are in we need to keep money available in case of extreme events.
- R. Leggott* - asked if the Board was voting?
The Chairman confirmed they were but only on whether to amend the wording in the policy document to allow longer term investment.

A vote was taken and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED The policy wording be amended to allow longer term investment

9.4 **Revisions to the Financial Regulations**

The Chief Executive confirmed that there were two revisions to the Finance Regulations in relation to credit card expenditure and document retention. The Board had recently been inspected in relation to the Wrangle Sea Banks project and all ERDF paperwork has to be retained for a period of 15 years.

- P. Skinner* - confirmed it need not be a paper copy.
J. Grant - confirmed that they could drop in at any time to view the documents.

9.5 **Plant & Pumping Insurance Expenditure**

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that consideration had been given to making payment of insurance premium for items not currently covered by insurance. However, after careful consideration of the sums involved, it had been decided to continue self-insuring the items. The Chairman confirmed the electric panels were insured but anything submerged was not. The gearbox and the engine were not insured. The Board were asked for their views. P. Skinner proposed that the Board continue to self-insure the items and this was seconded by A. Saul.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Financial Regulations be amended for the preceding two matters.

10. **MINUTES OF WORKS COMMITTEE – 21st NOVEMBER 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21st November 2018 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

The Chief Engineer briefly read through the Minutes and confirmed that some changes had been made to channel maintenance which had been detailed in the Minutes. Some extra works had been included together with itemised costs of transporting the plant round the District. However, overall there was not a large increase.

The Chairman confirmed that considering the 2.7% increase in wages, we have also incurred costs of 1.6% structuring the mens wages, the Chief Engineer had done very well keeping the levels as they are.

The Chairman asked if the Board were prepared to accept the 2019/2020 Estimates recommended by the Works Committee.

A. Saul proposed that the 2019/2020 estimates be accepted. J. Ward seconded the proposal. It was therefore:

RESOLVED	that the following Estimates be approved	
	i) Weed Control	£792,770
	ii) Cleansing/Mudding	£335,145
	iii) Asset Improvements	£ 50,125

11. **MINUTES OF PLANT & PUMPING STATIONS COMMITTEE – 21st NOVEMBER 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21st November 2018 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

- 11.1 The Chief Engineer read through the estimates, the Plant replacements for the next 6 years and confirmed there were a number of items requiring approval in the plant replacement programme. The Chief Engineer confirmed that he had e-mailed Committee Members with details of the likely replacement/service costs and in his opinion, it would be better to replace the items. Some of the plant requiring replacement are considered as emergency response items as well as carrying out day to day duties and it was essential that these items were reliable.

P. Bedford proposed that the items be replaced, and this was seconded by T. Ashton.

- J. Grant - suggested the items be kept inside during bad weather*
T. Ashton - very much appreciated the detail the Chief Engineer had provided. The Case Digger should be considered as emergency response equipment. It was a crucial piece of equipment and the Board needed to be confident that it could be relied upon.

The Chairman suggested that a list of priority vehicles could be produced at the next Committee meeting.

- N. Jones - said he still could not accept selling the Toyota Hilux for £5k and buying a new one for £23k. The Chief Executive reminded him that this cost came out of the plant fund and had no effect on the rates. The Foremen have to have new vehicles every 3 years because of the reliability issue and the one that is replaced is handed down to the depot to use.*
T. Ashton - confirmed he shared N. Jones' concerns but appreciates that the Foremen's trucks need to be replaced but would like to consider the longevity of both trucks as 70k is very low mileage for a Toyota Hilux.
R. Leggott - asked if we were looking to replace the Case and would other machines be considered?

The Chairman confirmed that consideration was being given to Volvo and JCB and that the Chief Engineer would investigate all options.

- J. Grant - confirmed the Board had gone from 3 trucks with 90-100k on them to 4 trucks and were cautious about getting plant into the District.*
P. Skinner - confirmed they were used off road and for towing and were work horses and needed to be reliable.

The Chairman asked if the Board would approve the purchases, with the exception of the Toyota Hilux but inclusive of the Case Digger.

It was therefore:

- RESOLVED** That the Board agree the Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee
- (i) Tipping Trailer Estimate £8,500
 - (ii) Cherry Picker Estimate £38,000
 - (iii) Loader for Hobhole Estimate £15,000 - £20,000
 - (iv) Bank Cutter for Hobhole Estimate £8,000
 - (v) Case Digger Estimate £80,000
 - (vi) Claas Tractor Estimate £65,000

The Chairman asked if the Board would approve the purchase of a new Toyota Hilux.

It was therefore:

- RESOLVED** That the Board agree to replace the Toyota Hilux Estimated at £25,000

11.2 **Estimate for Pumping Stations**

The Chairman asked the Board to approve the 2019/20 Estimates for Pumping Stations recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee.

A. Saul proposed that the Board approve the Pumping Station Estimates 2019/20 recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee. R. Williams seconded the proposal.

It was therefore:

- RESOLVED** That the Board approves the Pumping Station Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee.
- | | 2019/20
Estimate | 2018/19
Estimate |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pumping Stations | £461,783 | £455,233 |

11.3 The Chairman asked the Board to approve the 2019/20 Depot Estimate recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee.

A. Saul proposed that the Board approve the Depot Estimate recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee. J. Grant seconded the proposal.

It was therefore:

- RESOLVED** That the Board approves the Depot Estimates recommended by the Plant & Pumping Committee.
- | | 2019/20
Estimate | 2018/19
Estimate |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pumping Stations | £42,500 | £42,000 |

12. **MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 21st NOVEMBER 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21st November 2018 were submitted and agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

The Committee Chairman briefly ran through the report and asked if anyone had any comments.

J. Grant - confirmed that the Biodiversity Plan was important, and it was accepted that care needed to be taken when placing the bat boxes. They would be placed near the owl boxes rather than at the Pumping Station.

The Chairman asked the Board to approve the 2019/20 Estimate recommended by the Environment Committee which was very similar to that of the previous year. It was important for the Board to show that it was environmentally minded.

T. Ashton proposed that the Board approve the 2019/20 Estimates recommended by the Environment Committee. M.Cooper seconded the proposal.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED That the Board adopt the 2019/2020 Estimate recommended by the Environment Committee in the sum of £79,010.

J. Ward - asked if a report was available on the Flyswat operation which could be made available to the Board?

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the Engineering Officer attended quarterly meetings and kept a report which would be presented at the next Board meeting.

R. Austin - confirmed the efforts of the Flyswat team was very much appreciated with the weekly reports of fly-tipping.

The Chief Executive confirmed that it cost the Board approximately £2,500 to support this initiative.

13. **MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

T. Ashton - added the RFCC meeting held on 12th October had been an interesting 2nd year programme with no real competition for the money available.

The Chief Executive confirmed that IDBs had been pushing ahead with projects over the past 5 years and there were less projects to compete for these limited funds.

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

14.1 **Payments Made**

The Chief Executive went through his report and confirmed that there had been a number of large payments made in respect of the Wrangle Sea Banks project. However, the project (worth £1.8 million) was fully funded and full payment should be received by the end of March 2019.

14.2 **Compensation Claims**

The Chief Executive confirmed there were no compensation claims at present, but this could change because of the way the Chief Engineer is carrying out works.

14.3 **Rating Income**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the current balance outstanding was £124,000 which equated to 90% collection of the total rates. There were 6 large ratepayers owing more than £5,000 but four of these were paying by way of monthly instalments.

14.4 **Expenditure**

The Chief Executive read through the report and confirmed that the Board should be at 66% of the expenditure target but we are at 72%. This was because there had been a number of maintenance repair costs and the Board may have to take funds from reserves at the end of the year. However, the Chief Executive would be better placed to confirm this in his financial report in January 2019.

14.5 **Flood Defence Grant in Aid Applications**

The Chief Executive confirmed that £30,000 had been included this year in respect of modelling the catchment with a further £60,000 next year.

15. **CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT NO. 3/18**

The Chief Engineer went through his report, highlighting those areas of importance for Board Members. The Chief Engineer confirmed that this was the first engineering report he had presented to the Board so there was a slightly different layout. However, if anyone had any suggestions for things to be added he was very open to receive them. The Chief Engineer believed the report provided a useful insight to engineering matters.

B. Bowles - if there had been more hours spent at Wrangle following the creation of the lagoons?

The Chief Engineer confirmed there had been no obvious increase because it had been very dry.

15.1 Cooling System Resilience

The Chief Engineer confirmed that a number of remedial projects were being implemented to protect the radiator following the damage caused by the cold weather. The Chief Engineer showed the Board some slides showing the building around the cooling system which was under construction and should be completed by 21st December. The panels are all 40mm insulated and there is also a thermostat on the pump and 2 heaters inside the building.

J. Grant - asked if there was any update on the second-hand engines?
The Chief Engineer confirmed not at the moment, but he would keep Members updated.

15.2 Electric Pumping Station Ground Works

The Chief Engineer was pleased to confirm that this work had been completed.

15.3 Engine No 3 repairs

The Chief Engineer confirmed that this issue had now been resolved.

R. Leggott - referred to Channel Maintenance operations and asked if there could be a comparison of the hours in actual metres?
The Chief Engineer confirmed it would not be practical for someone to actually measure it out but that he would be able to provide the breakdown of the figures at the year end.

R. Leggott - felt it would be useful to have the meters and planned -v- actual.
The Chief Engineer confirmed he would provide this. The Chairman added that as the Board evolves there is no reason why the vehicles could not be tracked, and this would provide the information.

15.4 Planning

The Chief Engineer apologised for the spelling mistake in 5.2 and said that the table shows the high volume of work passing through the office which is time consuming for the team to deal with.

15.5 Mareham Le Fen – S/114/02315/17

The developers have now been granted outline planning approval but are currently undecided whether to develop the land themselves or sell it on. The Board will continue to monitor the position.

R. Austin - expressed concerns with developments where there were riparian owners.
The Chief Engineer confirmed that the Board will comment on matters concerning the planning application and ensure drainage strategies for the sites are considered in full.

15.6 Consenting and Enforcement

The Chief Engineer confirmed that A. Carrott was dealing with Triton Knoll consenting issues for two days per week. A. Carrott is making physical site visits to ensure that works done are to standard.

15.7 Land Ownership Matters

All board owned land affected by the Triton Knoll project has been submitted to the Land Registry for registration. The Land Registry have confirmed that this will be completed by 31st January 2019 and we can then enter into the relevant Voluntary Agreements with Triton Knoll. The Chairman confirmed that even if Triton Knoll have had to use compulsory powers, they will still make the compensation payments.

15.8 Viking Link

The Chief Engineer confirmed that there was no update at present.

T. Ashton - advised ELDC were still awaiting the decision of the Planning Inspector although it was hoped this would be received before Christmas. The good news to report was that Viking Link had not pursued ELDC for their appeal costs which are in the region of £150,000

15.9 **Coastal Path**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that he had met with the Planning Inspector and had walked him round the site. The Chief Engineer believed that the Planning Inspector was sympathetic to our case.

B. Bowles - advised a letter was on its way to the Board from the Parish Council regarding the footpath at Wrangle which is still closed.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Peter Brett had applied to Lincs County Council for it to be closed for a period of 6 months. There were polite notices there asking people NOT to walk on the banks.

T. Ashton - confirmed historically there had been a gate and a stile and a kissing gate would be the obvious solution

15.10 **Plant and Equipment**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the JCB JS220 has been delivered and is working well.

15.11 **Fuel Thefts**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that thefts of fuel in the District were increasing and all possible steps are being taken to secure our machines and minimise any losses.

15.12 **Health and Safety Review**

This has now been postponed to April 2019 because of the Engineering Team's heavy workload.

15.13 **Technical Matters**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that Huw Sharman (Technical Engineer) is dealing with the issues listed.

15.14 **Rechargeable Works**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the EA are happy with the work the Board has completed on their behalf and this additional work has had no detrimental effect on our own workload. The Board have been asked to assist with the same work and more next year.

With regard to the problems caused by dissolved oxygen levels, the Chief Engineer confirmed that the heat delayed the cutting this year which allowed the vegetation to take control, which in turn, had a detrimental effect on the oxygen levels. It really was a vicious circle. Had there been no heat we would have been able to complete the first cut, which would have removed the vegetation.

J. Grant - asked if the Chief Engineer could do an assessment of the issue?
The Chief Engineer confirmed that it had already been dealt with.

The Vice-Chairman asked when we should receive payment from the EA?

The Chief Engineer confirmed next week.

16. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Chief Engineer read through his report and confirmed there was no real update in relation to Biodiversity 2020 at the present time.

16.1 **Witham Fourth IBD BAP**

Kingfisher nesting boxes had been ordered. These had to be ordered in pairs and will be installed at the pumping stations. The grass snake habitat was ongoing.

J. Grant - requested that holes are not cut in the sheet piles.
The Chief Engineer confirmed this is not happening.

16.2 **Eel Monitoring at Hobhole Pumping Station**

This had completely failed, and we would be reverting back to the original sluicing programme. Further monitoring is planned during the dark moon phase in December and hopefully the results will be known by summertime.

16.3 **Cowbridge Site – Reel Project**

This site has been identified as a site of recreational value and in 2005 we agreed to maintain it but unfortunately, due to other work commitments, this has not been done. Maintaining this site will assist the Board in meeting some of their BAP obligations so this work will be carried out in the New Year.

16.4 **Vermin Control**

It has been a bad year for vermin and the Board have employed a pest control service to carry out this work at a cost of £4,000 per year. The Chairman added that there are lots of regulations attached to vermin control.

R. Hall-Jones - confirmed there were lots of sighting of mink in the East Fen Catchwater Drain. He confirmed if the bank was cut and mudding carried out regularly it would attract lots of wildlife.
The Chief Engineer confirmed that any mink control carried out was very unsuccessful.

17. **2019 Meeting Dates**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the 2019 meeting dates were as set out in the Agenda.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman said that, on behalf of the Board, he would like to thank all the staff for their hard work this year. The Chairman said that it just remained for him to give his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 4.30pm

Chairman