

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Environment Committee** at a Meeting held at the Board's Office, 47 Northwick Street, Boston on Wednesday 21 November 2018.

Present - B. Swales (Committee Chairman)
T. Austin
A. Harrison
M. Jones
P. Richardson (Non-Chairman)
P. Skewton

1. **WELCOME/AGENDANCE**

Apologies for non attendance were received from:

J. E. Grant (Chairman)

2. **ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Chief Engineer (CE) went through the Environmental Report:-

2.1 **Environment Action Plan (EAP) Update**

The Chief Engineer began by explaining that Biodiversity (BIO) supercedes all other and local BAP's and the key aims are to protect species and habitats, to date there has been no further action on this and we wait for AEA to provide guidance on the reporting system we are to use. The government are yet to provide information on what has become the Biodiversity (BIO) strategy. The Chief Engineer went through the Board's BAP so set out in the Agenda and asked for any questions.

Paul Skewton asked how the Board controls work in the district? The Chief Engineer replied that we do put out work traps when they are sighted but these have to be removed if we get any other sightings.

2.2 **Ec. Monitoring at Hobbiton & Lake Bark Pumping Station**

The Chief Engineer informed members that the IFA International Fisheries Institute continue to monitor net passage at Hobbiton Pumping station and the Board are holding trials slightly higher than normal for the time of the year to be able assist. This enabled IFA to monitor the migrating nets through the stone and it is planned to carry out further monitoring through the dark moon phase in December 2018.

Neil Jones asked why we didn't fit an net pass at this location? The Chief Engineer explained that the size of the bank and the need to have water flowing through the pass consistently made this very difficult and costly.

2.4 **The Wash & North Northwick Marine Partnership**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that we continue to attend meetings, the last one held on 6 November. The Board pays a small subscription to fund the project and membership to this group allows officers to keep up to date with the issues facing the Wash and North Northwick Coast, while ensuring that our legal obligations to the European Marine Site are met.

2.8 **Red Cross**

This site is considered to be of significant importance to the area and to the Board in delivering some of their S&P outcomes, therefore, in 2018/19 the Operations team will ensure this site is maintained to the agreed standard. The Committee Chairman said he had recently seen the site and it was in need of some maintenance.