

# WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at a Meeting held virtually  
by Zoom on Wednesday 20 January 2021.

**Present:-** P. Richardson (Chairman)

**Members:** T. Austin                      C. Hardy  
B. Beattie                        R. Leggett  
C. Coudrean                    K. Smith  
(Vice-Chairman)                J. Woods

**Apologies for non-attendance were received from:-**

**Members:** J. Ward  
J. Grant  
R. Austin

The Chairman asked the Chief Engineer for a brief update of the situation in the District although he was aware this did not form part of the meeting but knew that Members would be interested. The Chief Engineer confirmed that we were expecting a significant amount of rain but that it appeared it was further north although we had had rain in the past couple of days. The ground is very saturated at present, so any additional water will run straight into the drainage system. The diesel pumps at Holme and Leds Bank Pumping Stations had been running, as were the electric pumps at the coastal stations. The Chief Engineer confirmed with any luck we should be ok.

The Chairman confirmed that because of the weather situation, the Chief Executive was attending a meeting of Soil Control this afternoon so he would appreciate if if the meeting could be dealt with in a timely fashion.

### 1. **Apologies for Absence**

The Chief Executive confirmed apologies had been received from J. Grant, J. Ward and R. Austin. The Chief Executive advised Members that the meeting was being recorded to assist with Minute taking.

### 2. **Declaration of Interest**

P. Richardson – Young Link and Tilton Road  
R. Leggett – Tilton Road

### 3. **2020/21 ESTIMATES**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the result for the current year had been much better than had been anticipated despite a 20% electricity bill which had been received this morning.

The Chief Executive presented his 11 page memorandum to the Committee, which covered the forecast for the current year, a rate history, and the estimate for 2021/22 showing a suggested rate increase of 2.2%.

This showed an overview of the current year and what the actual costs were likely to be, and these were highlighted in blue. From the narrative provided it could be seen that income had been much better than expected because of Tilton Road compensation payments of £115k, and the Board were about to invoice the Environment Agency for £25k in respect of costs. That has given the Board larger income than estimated, resulting in an expected surplus of £100k.

The Chief Executive referred the Members to the Expenditure headings detailing the maintenance costs and said the Board had been suffering because of the Covid-19 situation. Despite the reduced storm