

# LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at Wellington House, Manby, on Wednesday, 28th November 2018.

*	G.A. Crust (Chairman)	*	Cllrs	T. Aldridge
*	S.W. Eyre (Vice-Chairman)	*		D. Andrews
*	W. Cooper	*		S. Dennis
*	T.H. Heys	*		A.J. Howard
*	J.M. Mowbray	*		T.J. Knowles
*	R.H. Needham	*		D. McNally
*	P.W. Pridgeon	*		R.J. Palmer
*	D.R. Tagg	*		W. Parkinson
*	R.A.D. Unsworth	*		J. Swanson
	O. Shooter	*		Mrs P.F. Watson
				Mrs W. Bowkett

\* *Present*

*	Messrs	A. McGill (Chief Executive)
*		D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
*		N. Kemble (Engineer Designate)
*	Mrs	J.D. Watson (Operations Director)
*	Mr	A. Dale (Operations Manager)
*	Mrs	N. Hind (Finance Manager)
*		<i>In attendance</i>

## 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem.

## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr P.W. Pridgeon and seconded by Mr D.R. Tagg that Mr G.A. Crust be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr G.A. Crust be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

## 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr G. Crust thanked Mr S.W. Eyre for his support as Vice-Chairman over the last year and proposed that he be re-elected as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr S.W. Eyre be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

## 4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R.A.D. Unsworth and Cllrs T.J. Knowles and Mrs W. Bowkett.

## 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr G.A. Crust - agenda item 17.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon - agenda item 20 (LMDB/LDC/2018/075)  
Cllr J. Swanson - agenda item 20.

**6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr G.A. Crust - article in the Sunday Times.  
Mr D.R. Tagg - article in the Farmers' Weekly.

**7. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1379 to 1391)**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 19th September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

**8. MATTERS ARISING**

Members thanked staff for organising the recent tour of inspection, which gave them the opportunity to view the work being undertaken by the Board and opportunity to engage with partners. The Chief Executive reported that Mr M. Warman, M.P. for Boston, had been unable to attend but had expressed an interest in visiting the area at a later date - this would be followed up by Officers.

Cllr S. Dennis stated that many people were still not aware of internal drainage boards and suggested that the Board should consider meeting with local parish councils to highlight the work being undertaken by the Board, particularly in the Wainfleet/Croft area. It was agreed to pursue this later in the year.

RECEIVED

**9. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the Consortium Committee meeting held on 6th November 2018 and these were considered in detail.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the Consortium Committee meeting held on 6th November 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and noted.
- (b) That the proposed method of calculating the Consortium recharges detailed in minute 6 be adopted.
- (c) That the new position of Modeller be approved and that the Engineering Technician Post (previously Work Experience) be made permanent.
- (d) That a 2.7% cost of living increase be approved for all members of staff with effect from 1st April 2019.
- (e) That the DRAFT Data Sharing Agreement be approved.

**10. MEETING DATES 2019**

Officers proposed the following dates for Board and Committee meetings:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
9th January 2019	9.30 a.m.	Plant and Compensation Committee
9th January 2019	11.00 a.m.	Staffing and Resources Committee
30th January 2019	9.00 a.m.	Board (approval of estimates and rate setting)
27th March 2019	9.00 a.m.	Board
29th May 2019	9.00 a.m.	Board (approval of final accounts)
24th July 2019	9.00 a.m.	Board
25th September 2019	9.00 a.m.	Board
27th November 2019	9.00 a.m.	Board (Annual General Meeting)

The following dates were noted for information:

ADA Lincolnshire Branch - 21st February 2019  
ADA Lincs Branch AGM - 25th April 2019  
EA Flood and Coast Conference - 18th - 20th June 2019  
Lincolnshire Show - 19th and 20th June 2019  
ADA Annual Conference - 13th November 2019

RESOLVED

- (a) That the above dates be approved and noted.
- (b) That the Committee Terms of Reference be amended to state that meetings would be called as required.

#### 11. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

- (a) That the following appointments be approved:

Standards Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs R.H. Needham, P.W. Pridgeon, Cllrs D. Andrews, R.J. Palmer and Mrs P.F. Watson.

Plant and Compensation Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs T.H. Heys, J.M. Mowbray, R.H. Needham, P.W. Pridgeon, Cllrs T. Aldridge, D. Andrews, R.J. Palmer and J. Swanson.

Staffing and Resources Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs P.W. Pridgeon, O. Shooter, D.R. Tagg, Cllrs T.J. Knowles, R.J. Palmer and Mrs P.F. Watson.

Consortium Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board with Mr P.W. Pridgeon as substitute.

- (b) That a report on members attendance be presented to the next Board meeting.

#### 12. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £2,832,458.45 (76.3%) had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies for 2018/19. Reminders regarding second instalment payments were posted on 15th October 2018.

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### 13. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for consideration.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the ten-year plan was being reviewed and would be presented for consideration once this was complete. He emphasised the importance of this to enable the Board to smooth any future rate increases. Mr W. Cooper asked for any funds allocated for specific projects to be shown separately to make it clear that these did not form part of the Board's reserves.

The Chairman thanked the Finance Manager for the additional work undertaken on the new accounts system and enquired whether there was any additional support required to assist with bringing the system online. It was agreed that the Finance Officer would contact Sage to see whether they could offer further support in designing the software.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the accounts for the period 1st April to 31st October 2018 be noted.
- (b) That the forecast outturn of a surplus of £65,394 for the year end be noted.
- (c) That Schemes included in the fixed assets to the balance sheet to the value of £3,046,555.47 be written off to the Reserve Account.
- (d) That a revaluation of land and property owned by the Board be undertaken in 2019/20.
- (e) That current borrowings and investments be noted.
- (f) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.
- (g) That additional support be sought from Sage to bring the accounts system online.

### 14. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operations Director presented the attached report for information and gave the following updates:

Quotations received for the repair of the depot access road were significantly higher than envisaged and the specification was therefore being reviewed before further quotes were sought.

Pump number two at Anderby had been lifted for inspection following reports by the DLO that this had been very noisy when running. Score marks on the impellor vanes had been dressed and the rotor balanced. The bearings and seals had been replaced as part of the pump rebuild and there were no electrical issues with the motor. The pump was now working satisfactorily.

Confirmation was awaited from the contractor regarding rectification of a failed proximity switch on the Boygriff weedrake. There was an issue with the speed travel motor drive on the weedrake at Howdales where an artificial spike in water level readings was causing the pump to start. The contractor was trying to remedy this but it may be necessary to change to a fixed-speed drive.

There was a compatibility issue with Panolin biodegradable hydraulic oil causing some Volvo hydraulic pipes to fail. This problem appeared to be related to machines built in a particular factory and Volvo had inspected all the Board's machines and confirmed that the two 2014 excavators were affected and the pipes would be replaced and the situation monitored.

In response to Mr R.H. Needham, the Operations Director confirmed that the full cost was recharged to the Environment Agency for any works undertaken under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement and this included the cost of managing the project.

The Operations Manager confirmed that the Board was still operating on summer levels but these would be adjusted very shortly. He reported that more damage had been caused to weedbaskets this year from working in the dry conditions.

A letter had been received from Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett regarding work on the Steeping River and the Chief Executive reported that he would discuss this with her.

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#### 15. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £5,268.43 was circulated for information; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of compensation payments be approved.

#### 16. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

##### 16:1 Theddlethorpe Pumping Station Replacement (C18306)

Officers reported that the Outline Business Case (OBC) had been submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) but there appeared to be an issue as to whether more eel measures should be included, specifically at least one fish friendly pump. The EA had reserved funding based on an earlier more expensive scheme including fish friendly pumps, and would theoretically be able to fund at least one pump. Officers had indicated that the Board could accommodate one fish friendly pump, if necessary, by replacing the third (submersible) pump but stressed that the money could be better spent elsewhere.

The total cost in the OBC was £582,000 (£53,250 more than the cost reported at the last meeting) which would result in an additional net cost to the Board of £27,025 (to be included in the 2019/2020 estimates) giving a total Board budget of £291,400. This additional cost came from firming up the price for works to culvert inaccessible lengths of channels leading to Bleak House Doors which were to be automated for gravity discharge to the Fulbeck catchment.

RESOLVED

That Officers actions be approved and a provision of £27,025 be included in the 2019/20 estimates for the additional cost of the scheme.

16:2 Howdales Pumping Station Refurbishment (C16351)

Officers reported expenditure to date of £211,175 with further committed contract retentions of £4,667 giving an estimated final out-turn cost of £215,844. This was in excess of the £211,110 budget, however, £2,110 of the £4,733 would be claimed from the FDGiA reserved contingency.

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16:3 Ludney Pumping Station - Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner (C17304)

All works were complete and the final out-turn cost would be reported to the next Board meeting.

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16:4 Boygriff Pumping Station Refurbishment (C17352)

Design drawings submitted by Bedford Pumps Ltd for the three fish friendly pumps and pipework had been reviewed by Officers and some adjustments made. The pumps were now being fabricated and on target for delivery in April/May 2019.

Officers continued to investigate whether the gravity outfall could be brought back into operational use.

Expenditure to date was £178,186 against an overall scheme budget of £803,000 and an interim FDGiA payment of £450,000 had been received from the Environment Agency.

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16:5 Saltfleet Pumping Station Catchment Review (C18307)

Officers had recently met with the Environment Agency (EA) to explore issues relating to the siltation of the gravity outfall from the EA's Greyfleet/South Dyke systems and future predicted sea level rise. Whilst the current problem was with the Greyfleet outfall, sea level rise would in future also compromise the Great Eau gravity outfall. The Engineer reported that as both the EA systems and the Board's system (Saltfleet Pumping Station) jointly provided land drainage and flood defence to the same areas, it was in both parties' interest to work together to obtain solutions to the Haven outfall. Various options were being considered including a single new pumping station combining the existing separate outfalls and further investigation was recommended to agree a way forward. Officers explained that the configuration of Saltfleet Pumping Station meant that it would be very difficult to extend.

It was noted that FDGiA for the Board's Saltfleet Pumping Station had been delayed one year to allow other higher priority schemes to proceed.

The Engineer stated that he would negotiate with the EA on the basis that the Board could only contribute the amount allocated for the refurbishment of Saltfleet Pumping Station.

The Engineer stated that he would review whether gravity outfalls could be used when pumping stations were refurbished.

RESOLVED

That Officers explore the possibility of linking the Board's Saltfleet Pumping Station catchment with the EA's Greyfleet/South dyke systems and present options and costs to the Board for consideration; the refurbishment of Saltfleet Pumping Station to be delayed until completion of the review.

16:6 Proposed Demolition of Telecommunications Mast r/o Tedder Hall, Manby

Quotations had been sought from six suitable contractors to dismantle and dispose of the Board's obsolete telecommunications mast. Four quotations had been received and were presented for consideration.

The electrical supply to the mast structure had already been isolated and disconnected from inside East Lindsey District Council's building and the existing kiosk situated in the compound removed. Work would be undertaken over the weekend to minimise disruption. Officers would check to ensure that the relevant health and safety measures were in place before any contract was awarded.

RESOLVED

That the quotation submitted by H. Cope and Sons Demolition Ltd in the sum of £4,765 be accepted subject to the receipt of satisfactory risk assessments and method statements.

16:7 Sunningdale Drive, Skegness – Potential Partnership Scheme

A joint partnership meeting with Officers from the Board, Lincolnshire County Council, Anglian Water Services and East Lindsey District Council was held on the 9th October 2018 to discuss historical flooding issues at Sunningdale Drive, Skegness. It was noted that the most recent flooding had occurred in July 2018.

Officers reported that annual weedcutting had commenced on the Board maintained South Drain (a strategic watercourse) on the day of the event. A CCTV survey on the Board maintained Winthorpe Drain North culvert which served the area was undertaken in 2008 and a further inspection was due to be carried out this year. Officers had, however, undertaken an initial inspection of the culvert which appeared to be functioning satisfactorily on the day of the event.

Officers continued to liaise with partner organisations to investigate the potential upsizing of their pipes to increase capacity within their networks and the next meeting was planned for January 2019.

A report would be presented once further investigations had been undertaken.

RECEIVED

16:8 Reforming Works

The attached schedule of reforming works was presented for information.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that the Board had the money, equipment and manpower to undertake a full reforming programme each year and asked officers to review this to ensure that the 15-year programme was adhered to.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Engineer and Operations Director undertake a review of the reforming programme to ensure that all watercourses were included in the 15-year programme.
- (b) That a review of the programme for CCTV surveys and clearing be undertaken by the Engineer.

17. BYELAW APPLICATION - CATCHWATER DRAIN, BURGH LE MARSH

The Chairman declared an interest and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Officers and the Chairman had met with the developer and agent to discuss, at pre-application stage, proposals for works to develop a site at Springfield, Off Bishop Tozer Close in the parish of Burgh Le Marsh for 14 dwellings. Discussions involved potential, surface water and package treatment discharge, as well as improvements to existing riparian watercourses in the ownership of the developer, towards mitigation measures for potential loss of storage for any culverting works, and the construction of an access road for the development.

Following the meeting an application had been received for the following:

- (a) A 14 linear metre extension to the Board maintained Catchwater Drain culvert located to the southern end of the site.
- (b) Four outfall structures for package treatment plants.
- (c) Construction of an access road within nine metres but no closer than two metres of the Board maintained Catchwater Drain.

Attenuation details for the site and surface water discharge levels were awaited.

Officers had delegated authority to deal with items (a) and (b) above and to deal with the surface water discharge, however, construction of the access road did require Board approval.

The Operations Manager had confirmed that there was limited access on the opposite bank of the watercourse. Concern had also been raised about the risk of damage to the road surface when undertaking any future maintenance and/or improvement work on the watercourse although officers reported that this could be addressed as part of the conditions applied to the consent, if granted.

It was noted that the proposed access to the development off Bishop Tozer Close was over a culvert which had been installed by the Board to avoid any contact with the gas main whilst undertaking annual maintenance work. This culvert was not currently used for access and it would likely need upgrading to a standard suitable to accept vehicle traffic to and from the development site.

Members were concerned about the proximity of the road to the watercourse and Mr P.W. Pridgeon suggested that the developer be asked to culvert the whole length of watercourse adjacent to the proposed access road.

Cllrs T. Aldridge, D. McNally, J. Swanson and Mrs P.F. Watson abstained from voting on this item.

RESOLVED

That Officers undertake further investigations to see whether it would be feasible to culvert the watercourse (at the developer's expense) adjacent to the proposed road, or seek alternative proposals and report back to the next Board meeting.

18. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Nothing further to report.

19. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The attached Environmental Report was presented for consideration.

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20. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

20:1 Byelaw Applications

Officers reported that the following byelaw applications had been dealt with under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2018/065 Installation of a one metre wide clear span foot bridge over the Board maintained Croft Drain at O.S. field number 5621 off Pinchbeck Lane at national grid reference TF 51511 62105 in the parish of Croft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/073 Renewal of consent C03172 for the realignment and increase in diameter of the Board maintained South Road Connection Drain culvert at land off South Road between national grid reference TF 56058 71787 and TF 55846 71815 in the parish of Chapel St Leonards.

LMDB/LDC/2018/074 Widening by one metre of the Board maintained South Road Connection Drain at land off South Road between national grid reference 55547 71814 to TF 55714 71728 in the parish of Chapel St Leonards.

LMDB/LDC/2018/109 Installation of a replacement culvert not exceeding 12 linear metres into the Board maintained Waterland Drain East at national grid reference TF 35654 99230 in the parish of Marshchapel.

LMDB/LDC/2018/110 Installation of a six linear metre access culvert into the Board maintained Meers Bank North Drain at national grid reference TF48918 86621 in the parish of Theddlethorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2018/114 Installation of two outfalls into the left bank of the Board maintained Cowcroft Soke Dyke at O.S. field number 1856 at national grid reference TF 49144 63525 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/118 Installation of two outfalls into the left bank of the Board maintained Coldwater Lane Drain at O.S. field number 6800 at national grid reference TF 48633 63013 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/124 Installation of three outfalls into the right bank of the Board maintained Wold Drain at O.S. field number 4681 at national grid reference TF 47555 61855 in the parish of Thorpe St Peter.

LMDB/LDC/2018/126 Construction of a detached dwelling within nine metres but no closer than four metres from the Board maintained Relief Channel Soke Dyke at national grid reference TF 50009 59895 in the parish of Wainfleet all Saints.

LMDB/LDC/2018/127 Renewal of consent C06007 to construct a double garage within nine metres but not closer than six metres from the Board maintained Holts Drain culvert and connection of a storm drain from the garage at national grid reference TF 47815 64759 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/137 Installation of a temporary machine crossing platform over the Board maintained William Way Drain culvert at national grid reference TF 55815 62947 in the parish of Skegness.

Mr D.R. Tagg referred to consents LMDB/LDC/2018/126 and LMDB/LDC/2018/127 and queried why these had been dealt with under delegated authority. The Chief Executive agreed to investigate and report back to the next meeting.

#### RECEIVED

#### 20:2 Section 23 Applications

Officers reported that the following Section 23 applications had been dealt with under delegated authority since the last Board Meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2018/069 Installation of 26 linear metres of culvert within the riparian watercourse off Lowgate, north of O.S. field number 0074 at national grid reference TF 39767 94984 in the parish of Conisholme.

LMDB/LDC/2018/071 Installation of a ten linear metre access culvert into a riparian drain at land adjacent to Westlands, Station Road at national grid reference TF 30939 01410 in the parish of Tetney.

LMDB/LDC/2018/075 Eradication of approximately 140 linear metres of riparian watercourse between O.S. field numbers 1200 and 2593, between national grid references TF 54238 71943 and TF 54115 71868 in the parish of Hogsthorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2018/077 Installation of a 4.5 linear metre access culvert into a riparian drain off Main Road at national grid reference TF 33911 94249 in the parish of Covenham St Mary.

LMDB/LDC/2018/078 Installation of a 146 linear metre culvert into a riparian drain at Golden Palm Resort between national grid references TF 56209 71162 and TF 56327 71130 in the parish of Chapel St Leonards.

LMDB/LDC/2018/111 Improvements to drainage including the infilling of 408 metres of riparian drain between O.S. field numbers 7927, 9315 and 1315 and a new cut riparian watercourse between national grid references TF 50968 64155 and TF 50849 64186 in the parish of Burgh le Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2018/112 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 4000 at national grid reference TF 49419 363730 in the parish of Croft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/113 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 3469 at national grid reference TF 49417 63724 in the parish of Croft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/115 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 0234 at national grid reference TF 48888 63241 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/116 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 9113 at national grid reference TF 487668 63126 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/117 Installation of one outfall into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 7209 at national grid reference TF 48766 63126 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/119 Installation of one outfall into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 1348 at national grid reference TF 48230 62415 in the parish of Bratoft.

LMDB/LDC/2018/120 Installation of one outfall into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 0036 national grid reference TF 47930 62275 in the parish of Irby in the Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2018/121 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 8900 at national grid reference TF 47757 62022 in the parish of Irby in the Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2018/122 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 6900 at national grid reference TF 47734 62019 in the parish of Irby in the Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2018/123 Installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 2461 at national grid reference TF 47334 6655 in the parish of Thorpe St Peter.

LMDB/LDC/2018/125 Installation of four outfalls into a riparian drain at O.S. field number 8123 at national grid reference TF 46718 61244 in the parish of Thorpe St Peter.

LMDB/LDC/2018/128 Installation of an access culvert into a riparian drain at land off Humberston Road at national grid reference TA 31462 01451 in the parish of Tetney.

LMDB/LDC/2018/129 Installation of an access culvert into a riparian drain at land off Humberston Road at national grid reference TA 31458 01480 in the parish of Tetney.

LMDB/LDC/2018/130 Installation of an access culvert into a riparian drain at land off Humberston Road at national grid reference TA 31456 01507 in the parish of Tetney.

LMDB/LDC/2018/131 Installation of an access culvert into a riparian drain at land off Humberston Road at national grid reference TA 31455 01524 in the parish of Tetney.

LMDB/LDC/2018/138 Installation of 66 linear metres of culvert into a riparian drain at land to the West of Pennygate, Middlesykes Lane between national grid references TF 39091 88472 and TF 39148 88506 in the parish of Grimoldby.

No applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority since the last Board Meeting:

RECEIVED

20:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on 21 planning applications since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage had been made.

RECEIVED

20:4 Updates

Officers continued to advise on work affecting both private and Board maintained watercourses in respect of the Hornsea Project and costs of £9,300 would be reimbursed in respect of this.

Applications in respect of flume crossings and directional drilling in respect of the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm had been dealt with and Officers were undertaking site visits to ensure that work was being undertaken to the Board's specification.

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21. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Director of Operations reported on a recent incident which involved debris being thrown up by the flail. She gave an overview of incidents over the last year and a comparison with Health and Safety Executive statistics.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon enquired whether the recent claim for damage to fencing had been resolved. The Operations Director had written to the landowner but not yet received a reply and would chase this up.

RECEIVED

22. STAFFING

This item had already been addressed under the Consortium Committee minutes.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman referred to a recent article in the Sunday Times which reported that climate change and rising sea levels could threaten more than 1.5m homes, turn farmland into marsh and wash away beaches by the end of the century. He emphasised the importance of raising the Board's profile and, also, taking up these issues whilst they were in the news.

Mr D.R. Tagg referred to an article in the Farmers' Weekly regarding maintenance of banks alongside Environment Agency (EA) maintained watercourses and the responsibilities of landowners. He was concerned that the EA seemed to be abdicating responsibility. The Chief Executive stated that this had come up before with the EA expecting landowners to take responsibility but putting restrictions on how any work was to be undertaken. He also

emphasised that the public paid towards the maintenance of EA and Board maintained watercourses to ensure that they were maintained to the right standard. Mr P.W. Pridgeon agreed, stating that particularly when a watercourse was in different ownership it was very difficult to get a whole section cleaned out satisfactorily and, also, not everyone had the facilities to undertake the work.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN