

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Board held at Wellington House, Manby, on Wednesday, 25th September 2019.

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|----------|---------------------------|---------|----------------|
| * Messrs | G.A. Crust (Chairman) | * Cllrs | T. Aldridge |
| * | S.W. Eyre (Vice-Chairman) | * | D. Andrews |
| * | W. Cooper | | S. Dennis |
| * | T.H. Heys | * | D. Edgington |
| * | J.M. Mowbray | * | A.J. Howard |
| * | R.H. Needham | * | D. McNally |
| * | P.W. Pridgeon | * | E. Mossop |
| * | D.R. Tagg | | W. Parkinson |
| | R.A.D. Unsworth | | P. Rickett |
| * | O. Shooter | * | J. Swanson |
| | | * | Mrs W. Bowkett |
- * *Present*
- * Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
* N. Kemble (Engineer)
* A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)
* A. Dale (Operations Manager)
* Mrs N. Hind (Finance Manager)
Members of the public
- * *In attendance*

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllr P. Rickett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J. Swanson declared an interest in agenda item 19 Delegated Matters - Planning, Byelaws and Supervisory Role.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon declared an interest in agenda item 12:1 Compensation Payments and agenda item 19 Delegated Matters - Planning, Byelaws and Supervisory Role.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1439 to 1451)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 26th June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Mr D.R. Tagg queried the progress of the abstraction licences, the Engineer would discuss this matter with the Environmental Officer and report back to the Board.

6. STAFFING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the Staffing and Resources Committee meeting held on 24th July 2019.

Referring to Minute 14:1, Mr D.R. Tagg queried whether Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station was operating at full strength. The Operations Manager confirmed that based on the levels in the Steeping, Officers had not accepted the restriction on pumping rate. The Chief Executive would raise the matter at the Steering Group meeting which was to be held on the 26th September 2019.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the Staffing and Resources Committee meeting held on 24th July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and adopted by the Board.
- (b) That the Chief Executive continue discussions with the Environment Agency to ensure Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station was able to pump at full capacity if required.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Senior Operations Manager was introduced to members, he reported that there had been no Health and Safety issues since the last meeting and officers were undertaking a full review of safe systems of work and risk assessments.

Cllr E. Mossop queried if the Board used an external health and safety advisor, Officers confirmed that whilst the majority of the health and safety work was undertaken in house, Nottinghamshire County Council provided specialist advice if needed.

RECEIVED

8. STAFFING

The Chief Executive reported on current staffing levels. The Strategic Partnership Director's contract was due to finish in October, however, due to the current workload it was suggested that the contract be extended for 12 months (with a review after six and an option to reduce to two days a week from June) to allow utilisation of his knowledge of the Board's systems. This would reduce the Board's need to rely on consultants when undertaking major schemes. The Strategic Partnership Director would be focussing on the Saltfleet Haven Outfall Consolidation Project and the Steeping River.

The Engineer confirmed that the Environment Agency was contributing towards the cost of the Saltfleet project and so a portion of the cost of any time spent of this project may be recoverable.

The Technical Director would be leaving in April 2020 and the recruitment process would commence shortly.

The Apprentice Technician had started work and was settling in well.

RESOLVED

- That the Strategic Partnership Director's contract be extended for an additional 12 months, with a review after six months.

9. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £1,975,276.78 (51.7%) had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies up to the 10th September 2019.

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10. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for consideration and reported that the accounts were live on the Sage system and data had been input up to the 31st August 2019, with the exception of plant and engineering timesheets which were in the process of being added. The Chief Executive stated that engineering timesheets, once added would allow any time spent on projects for Consortium Boards to be recharged to the relevant Board.

10:1 Management Accounts for the Period Ending 31st August 2019

The Finance Manager explained that the figures only took into account money due to be received before the 31st August and any money due after this point was not included in the figures.

It was noted that £38,207.52 had been received from the Environment Agency for the 2018/19 Highland Water Contribution which had not been paid before the year end, the 2019/20 contribution had not been received but was expected to be around £60,000. In response to Cllr E. Mossop, the Finance Manager explained the calculation used took into account expenditure on watercourses and pumping stations which dealt with highland water.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon queried why the full amount of rates was shown as due in May when some land owners paid by instalments. The Finance Manager stated that because the amount is billed as a whole the accounts show the whole amount as due.

The Finance Manager reported that there were currently £32,693.10 of costs booked to the Wainfleet Flooding cost code, however, as the engineering timesheets and the plant sheets were still to be input this amount would increase. The cost would be offset with any money received from the Bellwin claim.

10:2 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 31st August 2019

The Finance Manager presented details of the cash balances totalling £3,746,630 which were held across three accounts and two public works loan board loans totalling £43,197.21.

10:3 Payments over £500

The Finance Manager presented a list of payments over £500 totalling £1,024,438.27 including VAT which had been made since the last meeting.

Mr D.R. Tagg queried the £47,096.27 spent on supplies for the flails. The Finance Manager stated this included spare parts for flails and weedbaskets some of which were rechargeable to other Board's and bulk buying achieved a discount.

In response to Mr D.R. Tagg the Chief Executive confirmed that there had been a delay invoicing the Board for rent at Guy Gibson Hall. Officers negotiated a reduction on the

original amount and despite several reminders the Environment Agency had failed to send an invoice until recently.

Members expressed thanks to staff for the comprehensive set of accounts and hard work undertaken. Cllr T. Aldridge requested that the accounts be sent earlier to allow members time to read prior to the meeting. The Finance Manager confirmed these would be sent out with the agenda in the future.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached Management Accounts for the period ending 31st August 2019 be approved.
- (b) That the Board's cash balances and borrowings be noted.
- (c) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

11. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operations Manager reported that the Direct Labour Organisation was assisting with refurbishment works at Boygrift and Theddlethorpe Pumping Stations.

Flailing work was 68% complete and weedcutting 61% complete. Spoil spreading from the 2019/20 winter programme was underway and was due to be completed by the end of September 2019. In response to Mr J.M. Mowbray, the Operations Manager confirmed it had not been possible to source a bulldozer with ripper attachment when hiring this year, but this would still be taken into account in future.

In response to Mr P.W. Pridgeon, the Operations Manager confirmed that second cuts would be undertaken on watercourses later in the year where necessary.

Following a suggestion from Cllr T. Aldridge, Officers agreed to circulate the summer maintenance plan and regular progress reports to members.

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11:1 Environment Agency (EA) - Public Sector Cooperation Agreement Works

Grass cutting had been undertaken on behalf of the Environment Agency on the Great and Long Eau, with flailing and weedcutting work underway on the Woldgrift Drain and Wold Drain. Weedcutting and flailing was also due to be undertaken on Willoughby High Drain, Great Eau and Long Eau.

The Board was asked to undertake additional work with the weedboat on the River Steeping between the A52 and Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station in October. Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett queried whether the work would involve use of a long reach excavator. The Operations Manager confirmed that excavator work would be undertaken by the Environment Agency.

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11:2 Rechargeable Works

Private rechargeable work had been completed at Withern, North Cotes, North Thoresby, Louth and on behalf of the Isle of Axholme Board. An Anglian Water mains burst had caused a slip on Lowgate Sewer which would be repaired and recharged.

RECEIVED

11:3 Plant and Equipment

The Senior Operations Manager had met with the Chairman of the Plant and Compensation Committee to review prices received in respect of new items of plant and recommended that the following be approved:

	Budget	Tender/Quotation
Low Loader	£17,500	£16,020
Towable Access Platform	£17,500	£19,150
4x4 Trailer	£4,000	£3,066
Towable Fuel Bowser	£6,000	£5,544
Two Fuel Cubes	£4,000	£7,480
4x4 Truck	£20,000	£19,178
4x4 Truck	£22,000	£21,174

After reviewing tenders for the towable lift platform Officers had added traction control to reduce the requirement for manual handling; this had resulted in the additional cost.

The Astra Estate would be surplus to requirements following the purchase of the new 4x4 for the Operations Manager. It was expected to achieve between £6,200 and £7,180.

Three redundant weedbaskets were advertised for sale by tender and sold for a total of £1,515; the current scrap value was estimated to be £280.

The Senior Operations Manager reported that following discussions with the operator, the specification for a new wheeled excavator had been revised. Initial discussions indicated a cost of around £190,000 which was over the original estimate of £170,000. He asked that the Board delegate authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Plant Committee to approve the most suitable tender up to a value of £190,000.

Issues with the vacuum on the six inch Betsy pump was being investigated and the necessary work was expected to cost in the region of £3,000.

Mr W. Cooper queried whether the number of mobile pumps owned by the Board was sufficient given the additional needs of the Consortium and requested that the matter be reviewed by the Plant and Compensation Committee. The Senior Operations Manager agreed to review this and report back to the Board/Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve the purchase of a Bailey Low Loader at a cost of £16,020.

- (b) That the Board approve the purchase of a NiftyLift at a cost of £19,150.
- (c) That the Board approve the purchase of a 4x4 Bailey trailer at a cost of £3,066.
- (d) That the Board approve the purchase of a towable fuel bowser at a cost of £5,544.
- (e) That the Board approve the purchase of two fuel cubes at a cost of £7,480.
- (f) That the Board approve the purchase of two 4x4 trucks at a total cost of £40,352.
- (g) That the Board delegate authority to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of the Plant and Compensation Committee to approve the purchase of a wheeled excavator up to the value of £190,000.
- (h) That Officers undertake a review of the emergency pumping equipment and present recommendations to the Board for consideration.

11:4 Rainfall

Rainfall and pump run hours since the last meeting were presented for members information.

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12. COMPENSATION

12:1 Compensation Payments

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £288.02 was circulated for information; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of compensation payments be approved.

12:2 Complaint Regarding Rates of Compensation

The Senior Operations Manager presented details of a complaint which had been received regarding the Board's rates of compensation. The occupier was of the opinion that the Board's rate of 25 pence per metre for cereals did not cover the damage caused to his crop as damage had been caused to the crop between the wheel tracks. The claimant had asked for 49 pence per metre which would increase the claim from £611.00 to £1,197.56. Photographs of the damage were presented. Officers confirmed that no other complaints had been received.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that the policy was based on damage to one track width as the other track was on the one metre environmental strip left at the top of the dyke. In this instance, however, it appeared that more damage had been caused and, whilst he

did not think the policy needed to be amended, Mr Pridgeon stated that exceptions could be made if damage was caused by both tracks and, in this instance, he felt the loss was greater than 25 pence per metre. Mr Pridgeon further stated that where additional damage had been caused, claims should be reviewed on a case by case basis. He was concerned that not addressing claims for additional damage could result in claimants employing agents which would increase the Board's costs. The Policy allowed operatives to travel through crops rather than waiting for them to be removed which was more efficient and cost-effective for the Board and, whilst the Board should not just accept the requested figure, negotiations should be undertaken. Mr R.H. Needham supported this stating that whilst the policy should be adhered to, where excessive damage was caused each case should be assessed individually and that the compensation should be adequate to cover the damage caused.

Members queried if one metre had been left at the top of the bank in this instance which had resulted in greater damage than usual.

Mr D.R. Tagg stated that the Board was not obliged to pay compensation and suggested that the policy should not be amended in this case.

In response to Mr W. Cooper, the Chief Executive stated that if the Board looked at each individual case the policy would be undermined. The Board had in the past stuck to its policy when challenged as the amount paid was a fair price agreed by the Board and this allowed the Board to defend its position regarding compensation.

Cllr D. McNally queried if the Board had a statutory duty to maintain the watercourses. The Chief Executive confirmed that the only statutory duty the Board had was to protect and enhance the environment but used permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act to enter land and maintain watercourses, payment of reasonable compensation assisted the Board to do this more efficiently. Whilst he acknowledged that the value of crops would vary over the year depending on the market, as the Board agreed the rate at the beginning of the year, this could mean that the rate paid was more or less than the market value. He also pointed out that any increased costs associated with maintenance would ultimately be passed on to the drainage rate and special levy payers.

Cllr E. Mossop supported maintaining the current policy as adhoc local agreements could set a precedent and undermine the policy. He acknowledged that the policy may need review however in this instance should be adhered to. Cllr A.J. Howard also stated that changing the policy could be considered setting policy on the hoof and that the Board should maintain its current policy.

Mr S.W. Eyre stated that this was exceptional damage, the crop between tracks was usually fit to harvest.

After considerable discussion it was proposed by Mr D.R. Tagg and seconded by Cllr T. Howard that the Board adhere to its policy and agreed rates and pay £611.00.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon proposed an amendment which was seconded by Mr R.H. Needham that in this instance the Board pay the full amount claimed of £1,197.56 for the damage caused.

After a vote it was RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board pay compensation in line with its policy at a rate of 25 pence per linear metre - a total claim of £611.00.

- (b) That the Board review the policy at the Plant and Compensation Committee Meeting.

13. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

13:1 Theddlethorpe Pumping station Replacement (C18306)

The Engineer presented an update on the planned works. Tenders to refurbish the East and West automatic weedscreen cleaners had been sought; two companies declined to tender. Tenders received were as follows:

	Amount (£)	Comparative Cost (£)	Works
Tender 1	117,700	117,700	New trolleys and grippers
Tender 2	63,230	66,980	New trolleys
Tender 3	Submitted incorrect tender		
Tender 4	145,585	150,165	New trolleys

Officers recommended that the contract be awarded to C W Group for £66,980 which was under the £80,000 budget and included new trolleys and refurbishment of the remaining equipment. These works would give an additional 10 years of life to the weedscreen.

Tenders for refurbishment of the two suspended axial flow pumps, electric motors, automatic lubricators and syphon breaker valves had been sought from six companies, four had been returned and were as follows;

	Amount (£)
Tender 1	101,046
Tender 2	77,726
Tender 3	44,220
Tender 4	73,950

The companies were also asked to provide a quotation to undertake removal of pump number three and preparatory works to the sump to accommodate the new fish friendly pump. It had subsequently been decided to refurbish only one of the pumps as the other has been refurbished five years ago. Future refurbishments would be scheduled to allow work on both pumps to be completed at the same time in future. It was recommended that the contract be awarded to Fenflow Limited for up to £52,040 which included an additional £7,820 for the preparation works, a significant saving was expected from having only one pump refurbished.

A fabric "A" frame dam had been installed to allow work to commence. The Board's 12 and 6 inch pumps were on site to over pump water during the works, costs to date were £34,017.

13:2 CCTV / De-silting Works 2019/20 (C19450)

The Engineer reported that following the heavy rainfall event in June 2019, Officers intended to prioritise culverts in the Wainfleet area, work would include inspection and jetting as required. A plan had been drawn up and a quotation to undertake the work had been sought from ADC. The Engineer had received an estimate of £53,000 and asked for authority to be delegated to himself, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to award a contract up to £30,000 following negotiation and he would look for them to undertake as much work as possible for this amount.

Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett expressed the importance of completing this work following the flooding event, even if that required an increased budget. The Chief Executive pointed out that while the work was needed to check the condition of the culverts there may not be a link between the culverts and some of the flooding which occurred. He further suggested that the Board should consider tendering for a term contract which would allow the Board to engage a contractor when needed.

13:3 Strategy 2025 - Gotts Pumping Station (Refurbishment of Archimedean screw pumps)

Work was due to be undertaken in November 2019 to refurbish the two Archimedean screw pumps. Prices had been obtained to install a dam at a cost of £5,600, however, Officers had investigated the installation of removable aluminium stoplogs at the station to allow isolation of the pumps at a cost of £14,000 which would allow damming when required. He proposed that the cost be met from the small schemes budget of £100,000.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon queried the amount and how often the need to dam the station would occur. The Engineer anticipated that the equipment would last the lifetime of the station and would allow greater flexibility in the future. In response to Members, the Engineer confirmed that whilst opening sizes were not standard, Officers would check sites to see whether the stoplogs could be used at multiple stations. The Senior Operations Manager also stated that placing and removing the fabric dams presented a health and safety risk as it required manual handling and entry into the watercourse, the installation of stoplogs would reduce this risk.

13:4 Emergency Repairs

13:4:1 Burgh Village Pumping Station

Work to refurbish the two Archimedean screw pumps would be undertaken in November 2019 at a cost of £10,419.

Aluminium stoplogs would be installed at this location whilst the work was being undertaken at a cost of £7,200.

13:4:2 Burgh Sluice Pumping Station

Quotations had been obtained to lift and inspect pump number one following ingress of water to the motor and the contract had been awarded to Industrial Pumps for £1,650. Pump number two was also showing a similar fault, all three pumps were refurbished five years ago and investigations were underway to see if pump number three was also affected.

13:4:3 Gibraltar Point Pumping Station

Quotations were being obtained to investigate moisture ingress on both pump motors. The pumps were refurbished in 2013/14. Officers were investigating any possible links with the fault at Burgh Sluice Pumping Station.

13:4:4 Wedlands Tilting Weir

A replacement actuator had been purchased at a cost of £3,659. This was scheduled to be fitted in late October 2019. Quotations were being obtained.

The work at Burgh Sluice Pumping Station, Gibraltar Point Pumping Station and Wedlands Tilting Weir would be funded from the emergency pumping station repairs budget of £50,000.

13:5 Boygriff Pumping Station Refurbishment

Work started on the 9th September 2019 to install the fish friendly pump and upgrade the electrical control equipment and was due to be completed by the end of September. A fabric dam had been installed with the 12 inch Betsy over pumping to control levels. Painting work had been undertaken on the piles whilst the dam was in place.

Cleansing work of the gravity outfall and desilting from the discharge pond to the pump discharge outlet was complete. Further desilting work was being evaluated and would be reported at a future meeting.

Quotations for the supply and installation of three discharge pipeline flap valves had been sought, two had been returned (£41,200 and £17,100) and an order placed with H.C. Watercontrol Limited for £17,100. The valves were due to be installed in October 2019.

Whilst there were no pumps operational at site Officers had pumps on standby and electricians in place to allow installation of temporary pumps if needed.

Costs to date were £340,241.

13:6 Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station Resilience

Refurbishment of the station was due in 2025/26 however following the June heavy rainfall event some resilience measures had been identified including additional fans and lighting. A full report into the feasibility of undertaking this work prior to refurbishment and with funding from the small works budget, would be presented to the November Board meeting.

13:7 Trusthorpe Pumping Station Refurbishment

Work on the outline business case was ongoing.

13:8 Saltfleet Pumping Station Refurbishment

Officers reported that the combined project with the Environment Agency (EA) was still being discussed. The EA had agreed, in principle, to contribute £30,000 towards proof of concept for the shared facilities which would need to be completed by March 2020.

Cllr E. Mossop and Mr R.H. Needham queried the location of the new station. The Engineer confirmed that it would be on the existing site rather than further out towards the sea. He anticipated that there should be capacity to install up to three new pumps on the site, then refurbish the existing station, although options were still being considered. The EA was not including the Great Eau in the project, it would include the Grayfleet and South Drain which did not necessitate moving the station.

A site visit had been arranged with Northern Power to discuss the capacity in the local network.

In response to Mr T.H. Heys the Engineer confirmed that work would not affect the flow of the Great or Long Eau, The Chief Executive stated that Officers were in discussion with the EA regarding maintenance on those watercourses. The Board's Operations Team was assessing the watercourses and had already identified a number of issues which would be reported to the Board once the review was complete.

13:9 Asset Renewal - Jolly Common Drain

The final costs for the scheme were £50,657.91 which was under the £51,000 budget.

13:10 Keddington Lock

Design work to reconstruct the lock was progressing and an application for work in the watercourse was due to be submitted. The Board's Direct Labour Organisation planned to carry out work in November 2019 to reconstruct the banks and construct a new rock weir. Contributions were being sought from third parties to offset costs and it was hoped to receive around £10,000; the Board's contribution would be £10,000. A full report would be presented at the November meeting.

13:11 Telemetry System Review

Investigations were ongoing into renewal of the Board's telemetry system. One quote had been received and two more were awaited. The current system was proving to be expensive and Officers were looking at options for new equipment as well as monitoring. Initial costs may not be lower than those currently paid, however, included new equipment.

A full report would be made to the Board once investigations were complete.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the contract for refurbishment of the two automatic weedscreen cleaners at Theddlethorpe Pumping station be awarded to CW Group for a total of £66,980.
- (b) That the contract for refurbishment of the pumps at Theddlethorpe Pumping station and preparatory works be awarded to Fenflow Limited up to a total of £52,040. With savings to be negotiated for refurbishment of one pump only.

- (c) That the Board delegate authority to the Engineer, Chairman and Vice-Chairman to award the CCTV / Desilting contract up to a value of £30,000 following negotiation.
- (d) That the Board approve the purchase of stoplogs and frames for Gotts Pumping Station at a cost of £14,000 and Burgh Village Pumping Station at a cost of £7,200 to be funded from the small scheme budget.

14. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PROVIDERS AND HALF HOURLY METERING

Officers were working with Torse, the Board's broker, on contract renewals with the aim that all sites would use the same supplier and align renewal dates.

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15. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

15:1 Steeping River Catchment Groups

Officers reported that following the flooding in Wainfleet they were representing the Board at the Steering Group, Resilience Group, Funding and Benefits Group and Community and Engagement Group. They had also attended a number of public meetings and parish council meetings.

The Chief Executive reported that a funding bid of around £4 million was due to be submitted, however, this would be match funding. He was still reviewing the information but noted that the £200,000 the Board had committed previously for maintenance on the Steeping had been included, he would be reviewing if any of the local levy was included. He had made it clear the £200,000 Board funding was for work which would affect water levels, not studies. The District Council, EA and Association of Drainage Authorities were all working together to secure funding.

RECEIVED

15:2 River Steeping Catchment Resilience Group

The Engineer reported that this group was focusing on the management of the outfalls, conveyance of flows, structural integrity and adequacy of raised defences, potential flood water storage including natural flood management to slow down flows in the higher catchment, flood reservoirs and overspill areas and the management of residual flood risk for agriculture, homes, infrastructure and businesses - taking a whole catchment approach to improve resilience. The Group had determined that the outfalls may not be operating in line with the EAs original concept.

Mr G.A. Crust queried if management of flows into the Witham Fourth IDB area was being considered. The Chief Executive was aware there was a statement that all of the water from the catchment which goes to Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station could be taken by Witham Fourth IDB, however, there were concerns of flooding to the low-lying land in Witham Fourth's area which had resulted in the initial closing of the culverts. Some of the properties which were at risk of flooding in Wainfleet were significantly higher than the land and houses on the opposite side of the Steeping River. He acknowledged that there was possibility of using one of the culverts, which would take around two cumecs of water, as a backdoor to the Witham Fourth area. This could only be used with their agreement and when their Lade Bank Pumping Station was

ready as the water would have to be pumped, in addition to their own water, 17 miles to the coast.

The Board's systems were not overwhelmed by the amount of rain which fell in June but by the bank failure on the Wainfleet Relief Channel, prior to this the Board's systems were starting to recover. He emphasised the need to ensure that the Steeping and the Relief Channel were maintained and was concerned that discussions on managing levels from the Board's lowland catchment could detract from this. Mr D.R. Tagg stated that if implemented the culvert should only be used in emergency situations. In response to Mr W. Cooper the Chief Executive stated that the culverts were likely to be in a very poor state and if use was agreed between the Boards would require significant work, the banks of the River were still a concern and the use of the culverts would give the Board options for managing water levels.

The Operations team were assessing the silt levels in the section from the channel to the yacht club, who were looking to desilt a section of the watercourse. Initial assessment suggested that in some areas the silt was 7-8 metres wide and 3 metres deep with a large amount of work needed on the River. The Engineer stated that silt had built up along the Sea Lane section which meant that the water at Wainfleet Clough was unable to get away, historically the water was held up at high tide and released to allow the channel to be flushed. Options for flushing the watercourse were being considered.

A bathometric survey had been undertaken by the EA and the results would be shared with the Board.

The Board had submitted information to Norfolk County Council to assist with the Section 19 report and they would be visiting the site and would meet with the Boards Officers. Mr G.A. Crust queried if the Section 19 investigation was going outside its remit and if another enquiry was needed. The Chief Executive understood that the report would be more in-depth than a normal Section 19 and would produce recommendations and timescales. Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett reported that the Section 19 report for Wainfleet breach was going to scrutiny on 25th November, however, there were 452 complaints of flooding across the district which were being investigated by the County Council.

In response to Messrs D.R. Tagg and S.W. Eyre the Chief Executive stated that the watercourse needed desilting and that the Officers were working hard along with other partners to ensure that maintenance was completed both on the Steeping and other watercourses across the area.

The Chief Executive stated that Bellwin claim costs had been submitted totalling £72,414 including VAT. The Board had been challenged on the claim and had, with the assistance of ELDC, justified and explained the claimed amounts. He stated that this did not reflect the true cost to the Board of the event and was hopeful that the Board would receive the money.

15:3 River Steeping - Badger Related Works

The Board had been approached by the EA to assist their Flood Recovery Team in delivery of three projects to repair/reinstate damaged flood embankments due to burrowing animals, mainly badgers, along the River Steeping. The Board would be administering the contracts on behalf of the EA under a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA).

The Contractor had been procured by the EA and the project was being overseen by a dedicated Project Manager from the EA and a qualified Ecologist had been engaged by the EA to supervise the badger exclusion works which were being carried out under licence by Natural England. The badger exclusion works involved installation of one-way badger gates on all sett entrances to allow badgers to exit but not enter the setts which must be in position for 21 days before work commenced, the exclusion work needed to be undertaken before 30th November 2019. Work would continue through to March 2020 and the combined total for the projects was £382,966, the Board would receive £46,000 fee for managing the work.

The EA were in the process of planning additional work and Officers expected work to be undertaken on the Long Eau and Great Eau next year.

The Chief Executive reported that he had entered into this agreement on the Board's behalf and asked for the Board's approval to continue to provide the management of these contracts. Following issues with the previous contracts the EA's procurement of another contractor would have resulted in a significantly increased cost and meant some of the work would not be completed. The Board now held a contract for nearly £400,000 with the contractor undertaking the work, however, this contract had been procured by the EA and had not gone through the Board's tendering process. He had spoken to the EA who had provided him with justification for the contract to prove the procurement process had been completed as well as an assessment of the quality of the contractor's work. The contract was also reviewed by an independent overseer of the WEM framework who considered the proposed costs offered value for money. He had spoken to the Board's Auditor who was content with the evidence provided.

In response to members the Chief Executive stated that the Board had applied a standard 12% fee to cover administration on any PSCA agreement but that he expected the £46,000 to cover the Board's costs.

RESOLVED

That the Board support the Chief Executive's decision to enter into a contract for provision of management services on this contract.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

16:1 Eels, REDEEM Project

The Board had been approached for involvement in the Research and Development of Fish and Eel Entrainment Mitigation at pumping stations project which was being undertaken by PhD Students. At Boygriff Pumping Station the new fish friendly pumps and trash screens would be tested for eel passage using acoustic cameras to monitor the approach of eels and passed through or retreated upstream and catching the eels as they passed through the pipework. At Anderby Pumping Station the inlet bay would be used to test a Venturi Pump. Officers asked that the Board support the scheme and fund the cost of diesel at an expected cost of £4,500. Work was dependant on final agreement from the research group and confirmation of eel presence.

16:2 Barn Owl Nest Boxes

Officers reported that during the 2019 breeding season, Barn Owls had bred at eleven of the Board's nest box sites and 32 chicks had been ringed. Kestrels also bred in eight of the boxes raising 18 chicks with, 14 big enough to be ringed. Three boxes had jackdaws breeding in them and three had stock doves.

RESOLVED

That the Board support the Eel project and fund the cost of the diesel from the small works budget.

17. BYELAW APPLICATION - SKIRBECK DRAIN BRANCH TWO

The Board had received an application to culvert approximately 107 linear metres of the Board maintained Skirbeck Drain Branch Two. The site was behind seven residential homes which were consented in November 2011. The bank of the watercourse was collapsing and required repair. Following consultation with the Operations Team and Environmental Officer it was recommended that the consent be granted provided that the Engineering team agreed manhole sizes and locations which were to be completed to the Board's specification. It was also noted that water voles and other legally protected species may be present, and if needed a survey completed to ensure the works were undertaken in compliance with wildlife legislation and appropriate working methods used. The work would be completed at the applicants expense.

RESOLVED

That the application to culvert 107 metres of Skirbeck Drain Branch Two be granted subject to appropriate conditions and work being completed at the applicants expense.

18. BYELAW APPLICATIONS AND CONTRAVENTIONS

An update was given on the byelaw contravention at Mowbrays Drain. Site meetings were held in July to agree a schedule of work and a timescale agreed, works would be completed by the end of December 2019. The Solicitors had advised Officers to proceed with a Settlement Agreement, signed by both parties which would formalise an agreed schedule of works, and if these were breached it would give the Board more power to enforce. Subject to the signed Settlement Agreement being received, the Solicitors would request the withdrawal of the hearing for the criminal proceedings, should the work not be completed the Board would be able to reinitiate proceedings

The Chief Executive stated that the Board had taken a strong stance on this contravention by initiating criminal and civil proceedings, however a planning application for the alterations had been submitted to East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) which he understood was likely to be granted - the Board would object to this. Officers had attempted to arrange a number site visits with ELDC planning officers to discuss the matter however they were unable to attend. He would be discussing the matter further with the Council to facilitate us working closer together.

Cllr T. Aldridge emphasised the need to lodge the objections with ELDC to allow Councillors to consider them when the applications were put before the Planning Committee.

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19. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

19:1 Byelaw Applications

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

LMDB/LDC/2019/037 The removal of existing cables and poles and the installation of two new underground cables within nine metres of the Board maintained Kirks Drain at land at Home Farm, Common Lane at National Grid Reference TF 50712 - 65860 in the parish of Burgh le Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2019/044 The erection of a one metre high post and rail wooden fence and gate within nine metres but no closer than three metres from the Board maintained Inghams Sewer culvert between National Grid Reference TF 46928 - 81808 and TF 46943 - 81841 and the erection of one metre high post and rail fence within nine metres but no closer than three metres of the Board maintained Inghams Sewer watercourse between National Grid References TF 46947 - 81851 and TF 46956 - 81867 in the parish of Maltby le Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2019/045 The installation of three outfalls into the right bank of the Board maintained Mickleberry Hill at OS Field No 8357 at National Grid Reference TF 52775 - 73641 in the parish of Hogsthorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2019/066 The installation of a 12 linear metre access culvert over the Board maintained Mill Rundle Drain watercourse at National Grid Reference TF 45266 - 74997 in the parish of Alford.

LMDB/LDC/2019/071 The installation of a cable bridge over the Board maintained Trusthorpe Pumping Drain at National Grid Reference TF 50569 - 83540 and works to remove overhead crossings at National Grid References TF 50728 - 83658 and TF 550651 - 83603 in the parish of Mablethorpe.

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19:2 Section 23 Applications

The following Section 23 applications had dealt with since the last Board Meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2019/034 The installation of a nine linear metre access culvert into a riparian watercourse at Golden Anchor Caravan Site, Trunch Lane at National Grid Reference TF 56566 - 70718 in the parish of Chapel St Leonards.

LMDB/LDC/2019/036 The installation of a 30 linear metre access culvert into a riparian watercourse off North Road between National Grid Reference TF 51178 - 83443 and TF 51195 - 83419 in the parishes of Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea.

- LMDB/LDC/2019/043 The installation of a 84 linear metre culvert into a riparian watercourse at land at Poplar Farm between National Grid Reference TF 42052 - 88762 and TF 42090 - 88688 in the parish of Saltfleetby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/046 The installation of two outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 7474 at National Grid Reference TF 52644 - 72863 in the parish of Hogsthorpe.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/047 The installation of nine outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 7354 at National Grid Reference TF 52721 - 72455 in the parish of Mumby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/048 The installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 6633 at National Grid Reference TF 52708 - 72444 in the parish of Mumby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/049 The installation of six outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 9315 and 1300 at National Grid Reference TF 50976 - 64149 in the parish of Mumby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/050 The installation of six outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 7600 at National Grid Reference TF 54691 - 76959 in the parish of Huttoft.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/051 The installation of one outfall into a riparian drain at OS Field No 2161 at National Grid Reference TF 48262 - 62512 in the parish of Bratoft.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/053 Emergency works to repair a collapsed brick arch culvert in a riparian watercourse with a 13 linear metre sleeve under the railway line at National Grid Reference TF 56949 - 61314 in the parish of Thorpe st Peter.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/054 The installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 2016 at National Grid Reference TF 53990 - 76128 in the parish of Anderby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/055 The installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 0007 at National Grid Reference TF 53990 - 76128 in the parish of Anderby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/056 The installation of four outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 7600 at National Grid Reference TF 54816 - 76941 in the parish of Huttoft.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/057 The installation of one outfall into a riparian drain at OS Field No 0062 at National Grid Reference TF 53549 - 75349 in the parish of Anderby.
- LMDB/LDC/2019/058 The installation of three outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 6633 at National Grid Reference TF 52708 - 72444 in the parish of Mumby.

LMDB/LDC/2019/059 The installation of six Outfalls into a riparian drain at OS Field No 2900 at National Grid Reference TF 52321 - 68186 in the parish of Addlethorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2019/060 The installation of a 36 linear metre culvert into a riparian watercourse at The Old Barn, Wayside Farm between National Grid References TF 39958 - 80808 and TF 39978 - 80006 in the parish of Authorpe.

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The following Section 23 application were dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority since the last Board Meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2019/035 The installation of a 17.5 linear metre culvert into a riparian watercourse at 16 Househams Lane between National Grid Reference TF 36548 - 84483 and TF 36557 - 84468 in the parish of Legbourne.

LMDB/LDC/2019/052 The installation of a 24 linear metre culvert into a riparian watercourse at 10 Househams Lane between National Grid Reference TF 36535 - 84518 and TF 36543 - 84496 in the parish of Legbourne.

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19:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on 13 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were made.

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19:4 Triton Knoll

Additional consenting work had been undertaken and granted, an invoice for £900 had been issued in respect of the additional consent work required. Reinstatement work was underway and site inspections were being carried out to ensure the work was to an acceptable standard.

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19:5 Hornsea Two Project

The Board's Planning and Byelaw Officer had met with Orsted to discuss the proposed preconstruction drainage and horizontal drill designs which would affect the Board maintained Old Fleet Drain, Tuttle Drain East, Ussle Dyke, Field Drain and Inghams Sewer.

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20. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Chief Executive reminded members of the closing date for nominations (27th September 2019) and reported that all candidates would be informed of the result shortly thereafter. Should a poll be necessary, voting papers would be sent out and the day of the poll would be 28th October 2019.

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21. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

The Chief Executive presented details of the upcoming ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting on 17th October 2019 and the Annual Conference on the 13th November 2019 and asked members to inform the office if they wished to attend.

Messrs G.A. Crust, S.W. Eyre and Cllr D. Andrews expressed an interest in attending the ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting.

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22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN