

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
14th June 2017 at 2pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

* Mr W Ash	Cllr R Austin
* Mr J Atkinson	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr V Barker	* Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Brookes
* Mr P Holmes	Cllr R Clark
* Mr R Leggott	* Cllr M Cooper
* Mr P Robinson	* Cllr C Rylott
* Mr M Rollinson	* Cllr B Russell
Mr N J Scott	* Cllr P Skinner
* Mr J R Wray	Cllr Mrs S Waring

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)

1134 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Clark, Mr N J Scott and Cllr Mrs S Waring. Cllr R Austin did not attend.

The Chairman announced that Cllr Mrs Susan Waring has been appointed by North Kesteven District Council, she replaces Cllr Mrs J Harrison.

1135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

(a) Planning B/17/0174 - Land North of Middlegate Road (West) Frampton

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr P Skinner, Cllr C Brotherton and Cllr M Brookes with regard to Minute 1158(b)(i).

1136 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 8th February 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were considered.

(a) Minute 1080 - 2017/18 Final Budget

The final paragraph, first line should read "The Chairman concluded that the General Reserve is a little higher" removing "expenditure" and replacing it with "General".

(b) Minute 1083(h) - Slowing the Flow (Swaton Catchment)

Mr Barker referred to the second line and wished to add "old" before railway line;

It was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record with the above amendments.

1137 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 4

(a) Period 8 Management Accounts - Minute 1077(c)

The Finance Manager reported that they had been through the bidding process for the Electricity contracts and the most competitive, by a considerable amount, was Woldmarsh. Therefore, contracts have been placed for all 34 Pumping Stations with Woldmarsh.

The Chairman stated that this is a good result for the Board and the Finance Manager whereby it should save his time. He requested that the review period be set so that the Woldmarsh's contract can run for 5 years and then be reviewed. He stated that Woldmarsh update their supplier contracts yearly to the best price they can negotiate. He asked Members if they were happy to confirm this - all AGREED.

(b) Structures Replacement Policy - Minute 1079(a)

The Chief Executive reported to the Members that the updated Structures Replacement Policy was sent out with every drainage rate demand along with a rating brochure. A Structures Committee meeting was scheduled for the 28th June 2017 to investigate and review any concerns, questions and general responses to that policy. He reported that no responses were received; therefore having spoken to the Structures Chairman subsequently the meeting on the 28th June 2017 has been cancelled.

(c) Gearbox Failure at Sluice Gate, Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station - Minute 1083(a)(i)

Mr V Barker asked if the "buddying up" and training of Black Sluice Operatives in order to operate the navigation lock at the Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station alongside the Environment Agency had been completed. The Chief Executive responded No. The Navigation lock is controlled by the Canal & Rivers Trust with assistance by the EA. He stated that four operatives from the Black Sluice attend on a regular basis to observe and to be ready to buddy up with EA operatives in times of an emergency response. The Black Sluice IDB has no control of the navigation sluice or the gravity sluice at Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station. Mr Barker asked if we felt we needed to get those lock gates open have our engineer/fitters the capability and means to go in there and operate them.

The Chief Executive responded no. He explained this is not currently a Black Sluice IDB asset. He added that when the time comes following the asset transfer the current EA Pump Engineer will be transferred with the pumping station.

Mr Barker made reference to a year ago when there was a lot of water and an EA operative had to come from Kettering which by this time the tide had about turned, he questioned that had the Black Sluice IDB operatives been trained something could have been done sooner. The Chief Executive responded that this is the purpose of the Black Sluice IDB operatives being trained but the Board does not have the control of the facility at the moment.

(d) Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group - Minute 1083(j)

The Chairman stated the Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group meeting on 19th June 2017 has been cancelled, as the EA do not have the responses to information required.

1138 MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(a)

The Northern Works Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2017, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received. There were no matters arising.

Mr P Holmes moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1139 MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(b)

The Southern Works Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2017, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received. There were no matters arising.

Mr M Rollinson moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1140 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(c)

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 26th April 2017, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

1141 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Cyber Training - Minute 1102(a)

The Finance Manager reported the Cyber Training has been arranged for the 9th August and it is going to concentrate specifically on the Boards email system and the Boards network. The course has been split into two half day in order to split the office staff between morning and afternoon.

(b) Report on ADA Policies in Comparison to the Boards - Minute 1104

The Finance Manager outlined to Members that an exercise was performed to compare the Board policies with the standard template policies that ADA have produced. He explained that some of the Board policies were identified and sent for review by the Audit and Risk Committee in their meeting on 26th April 2017. He explained that the Anti Bribery policy, which the Internal Auditor had identified the Board was missing, although it was covered in other policies is now a new policy to comply with his requirement.

(c) Risk Analysis 8.5 Cyber Security Report/4.2 Insurance - Minute 1105(b)(ii)

The Chairman explained that the Finance Manager was asked by the Audit & Risk Committee to cost 12 monthly back up tapes, a quotation has been received for £1,763 to set up and the Board would need to investigate where the storage of these tapes could be. He asked the Board if they felt it was worth the cost for this type of monthly back up.

The Finance Manager explained that this will be for a 12 month rolling backup, currently there is a two week daily rolling backup programme. Everyday a tape is put in and the server is backed up, the most recent tape is taken off site. The Audit & Risk Committee Members had proposed a scenario what if an infection was within the system for more than 2 weeks before being found and the Board did not have an older backup? This is why the Finance Manager was asked to look at the annual 12 months rolling backup which would require 12 more tapes. The Finance Manager assumed that external hard discs price would be circa £50/60 for 1tb external hard disc but because the Boards system is a particular RDX system it has to have Altaro discs which means they are more expensive. He asked Members whether or not, or to what extent, the Board would go and he added that he had spoken with HBP this morning and there are a couple more options, one cannot be done until we change server and the other one is to duplicate two nas boxes, which would cost £4,000 a year.

Cllr M Brookes asked once you use these 12 tapes can you use the first one again, therefore once you have spent the £1,763 you can then continue to use them; the Finance Manager responded that the tapes can be reused and they can be used for as many years that this system is in place.

Cllr Brookes concluded that in real terms this reduces the cost over a period of time because you can continue and use them in future years, he further asked how long would they be used; the Finance Manager responded a few years.

Cllr M Brookes proposed that the Board purchase the monthly backup tapes; it was seconded by Cllr B Russell. The Chairman asked Members, all AGREED.

The Chairman concluded that after discussing this with the Finance Manager, a fireproof safe could be purchased and kept by the Finance Manager at home, to remove tapes into off site.

1142 ANTI BRIBERY POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(i)

Cllr M Brookes presented the new Anti Bribery Policy on page 63, which is a copy from the ADA template; this was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

The Finance Manager added that there were no amendments other than being placed into the Boards format.

The Board RESOLVED that the Anti Bribery Policy be adopted.

1143 ELECTRONIC INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(ii)

Cllr M Brookes presented the new Electronic Information & Communications Systems Policy on pages 64 - 70, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

The Finance Manager stated this policy used to be in the ADA White Book but when it was reviewed by the ADA Solicitor he believed it was not a term of employment therefore it was removed. He stated that the bulk of it is the same which was detailed in the ADA White Book but it has been modernised and updated.

The Board RESOLVED that the Electronic Information & Communications Systems Policy be adopted.

1144 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(iii)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Members Code of Conduct Policy on pages 71 - 78, which were reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

The Finance Manager stated that the amendments are detailed in red. He explained that the additions are based on items from the ADA template and the Audit & Risk Committee have reviewed this and recommended it to the Board. He highlighted the most important change in Section 1 where Members used to include a Co-opted Members on the Works Committees, or appointed Member from the Councils it did not include an elected Member so this has been corrected.

He concluded that the form that Members sign has been amended to include that "Board Members have read and accept and will abide by the Boards Members Code of Conduct". He suggested that these forms are not renewed until November 2018 after the election.

The Board RESOLVED that the Members Code of Conduct Policy be adopted.

1145 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - Agenda Item 5(c)(iv)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Risk Management Strategy on pages 79 - 103, which were reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

The Finance Manager stated that;

- Items 1.5/1.6 on page 90 & 91 a report was produced and presented to the Audit & Risk Committee and reviewed with the proposals put forward to mitigate the risk and the details are included in the minutes.
- Item 8.5 - Risk of Breach of Cyber Security which has been partially discussed previously with regard to the Cyber Training and the monthly backup tapes. He added that the other items which the Audit & Risk Committee reviewed were more advanced anti-virus systems and protection by insuring against the risk. Staff training, as the human interaction is the most vulnerable part of the system and the Committee agreed the advanced firewalls, anti-virus and sandbox system. The Audit & Risk Committee agreed not to proceed with the insurance element.

Cllr M Brookes concluded in addition within item 1.5/1.6 was Operating Boards Machinery there is an accreditation training now taking place through Llantra. The Finance Manager updated Members that this has been completed now including a written test.

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Management Strategy be adopted.

1146 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(v)

Cllr M Brookes presented the Delegation of Authority Policy on pages 104 - 107, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

The Chairman suggested that there are some additional items to be added to the Finance Managers,

- 12 Sign agreements on behalf of the Board as set out in the Boards policies
- 13 Deputise for the Chief Executive

The Finance Manager explained the reasons for the additional duties above are regarding the ADA template document in which there is a section called "Segregation of Duties between the Chairman and the Chief Executive" – the Officers did not believe the Board required a second document to the Delegation of Authority Policy therefore it has been incorporated. He concluded that the Finance Manager and Chief Executive duties are shared within this Board.

The Board RESOLVED that the Delegation of Authority Policy be adopted with the additional items.

1147 WHISTLEBLOWING CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CODE POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(vi)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Whistleblowing Confidential Reporting Code Policy on pages 108 - 113, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

The Finance Manager stated that the amendments are detailed in red, and highlighted that it now includes "Board Members" in Section 2.

The Board RESOLVED that the Whistleblowing Confidential Reporting Code Policy be adopted.

1148 RECHARGEABLE COMMERCIAL WORKS POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(vii)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Rechargeable Commercial Works Policy on page 114, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

He stated that there were no amendments deemed necessary.

The Board RESOLVED that the Rechargeable Commercial Works Policy be adopted.

1149 RECHARGEABLE PUBLIC SECTOR COOPERATION AGREEMENT POLICY - Agenda Item 5(c)(viii)

Cllr M Brookes presented the amended Rechargeable Public Sector Cooperation Agreement Policy on page 115, which was reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26th April 2017.

He stated that there were no amendments deemed necessary.

The Board RESOLVED that the Rechargeable Public Sector Cooperation Agreement Policy be adopted.

The Chairman acknowledged that the Audit & Risk Committee do a lot of work which takes it away from the Board or Executive. It is a very good system with different people looking at different things. He thanked Cllr M Brookes for his work.

Cllr M Brookes added that the Internal Auditors had stated that this Committee was a good Committee for the Board to have and that many other IDBs were looking at what this Board is doing because the Internal Auditor believes it is the way things should be done.

1150 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5(d)

The Environment Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2017, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

Mr P Holmes moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1151 TO APPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 5(d)(i)

The Chairman stated that there is a change to section 2, paragraph 2 - this paragraph should be removed because all meetings are public meetings.

Mr V Barker asked should it not say that only members of the Committee can vote. The Chairman responded we could say that yes.

The Finance Manager clarified that the Admissions to Meeting Act 1960 would not allow them to partake in the meetings. He concluded that all other Terms of Reference will be reviewed to ensure that if the paragraph is duplicated it will be removed.

The Board RESOLVED that the Environment Committee Terms of Reference be adopted.

1152 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 6

The Executive Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 24th May 2017, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

1153 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Annual Internal Audit Report - Minute 1127

The Chairman referred the Board to the report on pages 139 - 147, stating that the Board has received "adequate assurance" due to three recommendations;

- (i) The additional 0.4% paid over the 1% pay increase, even though a letter was received from HM Treasury (page 148) stating that the Board is in charge of its own pay and HM Treasury have no control over public corporations. He reported that seven IDBs had not paid the 0.4% and five IDBs had paid.

Cllr M Brookes added that the Internal Auditor also felt this should have been on a written report to the Board. The Finance Manager clarified within the Delegation of Authority Policy on page 104 gives the authority to the Executive Committee to approve salary levels for members of staff.

- (ii) For the Board to consider a Governance Awareness training for Members and Staff. He suggested that perhaps to ask the new Internal Auditor to review on whether he/she would like to do the training with Board Members.

Cllr M Brookes clarified that the Internal Auditor did admit at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting that he should have reported in writing, which if done so would have negated the verbal conversations, which took place throughout the Board. It is because it was reported to the Chairman and Cllr M Brookes verbally that it was transmitted onwards verbally.

Mr P Holmes asked when a new Internal Auditor is appointed should they be asked to review this recommendation before we consider Governance training in case they view this differently. There was general agreement.

- (iii) The Chairman concluded that the Whistleblowing Policy integrity is maintained and this has been reviewed and sorted.

(b) Report of a Proposed Operational Restructure - Minute 1131

The Chief Executive tabled a report on the Operations Restructure, which had been discussed at the Executive Committee meeting whilst excluding the public.

He stated that this has now moved on and outlined the information tabled which has been given to all employees and stated a formal meeting has been held with the Workforce and the Staff. He added that this is now public information and then presented slides detailing the diagram chart of the operational team.

The Chief Executive then announced that the Technical Engineer - Joe Mitchell has successfully obtained a position as Engineer at Lindsey Marsh IDB which he felt offered better career opportunities, he subsequently handed in his notice and has left the Board. He also announced that the Operational Supervisor - Sean Marshall no longer works for the Board. He has left employment and is currently seeking alternative employment. Therefore, due to situational circumstances this elevated an operational restructure which the Finance Manager, Operational Manager and Chief Executive had been looking into with a view to implementing in April 2018. He stated that due to the current operational position and the way the Officers wanted to move forward not just as an operational restructure but also as a review of the consideration of pay for the operational workforce. He added that they had also considered the competitive market and losing employees to the construction industry.

The Chief Executive stated that this was introduced to the Executive Committee. He presented slides and outlined the boxes in red the Officers are currently trying to fill, the Works/Engineering Manager post which is a new position and is being advertised in the press today. The GIS/Engineers position will be a similar position to that previously held by the Technical Engineers post - the Officers are not going to advertise for this post until the Works Manager is in post although we have identified all the elements and criteria to that post. He believed we would struggle to get every criteria filled but clearly they will come with some sectors they are more educated and proficient in. The terminology may change because if the Works Manager comes with very little GIS background clearly the focus will be GIS focus for the GIS/Engineering post. Currently the Officers have a backup plan with current employees covering any shortfall in our current position until September /October.

The Chief Executive stated that the Ganger and Works Supervisor positions have been put to the entire Workforce, it is only currently being advertised internally and closes 21st June 2017. He reported that they have received applications and he hopes that following successful interviews these positions maybe offered. He stated the Operations Manager is still building up the criteria for the interview. He stated that the Operational Workforce have been told that if nobody applies for the positions there is no threat of any redundancies and if nobody applies for any position they will retain their current position. He has explained to the Workforce that there is still an excavator driver operator position available, he explained that the Officers have advertised twice and have got to a point that the position was offered to a suitable candidate who verbally accepted but unfortunately he took an alternative position.

The Chief Executive pointed out on the slide stating 10 operatives will report directly to the Ganger or the Works Supervisor, the current HGV Driver and Fitter will report to the Works Manager. The Pumping Station Groundsman will report to the Pump Engineer, although this proposal states 2017 this was put together for 2018 therefore clearly there is no Colin Richards on this proposal.

The Chief Executive stated one of the main problems with the current Operations Supervisor position, was that every man (14 operatives) were reporting to that one position. He explained that if this was on a construction site there would be no problem with that but unfortunately the Boards construction site is 160,000 acres big plus the upper catchment, which becomes a geographical nightmare therefore the Officers had started to investigate alternatives. The Officers were looking at it starting with a 'blank piece of paper' and this was seconded by the Executive Committee. The Officers were trying to reduce the command chain without over emphasising on the cost contributed to new employees. He then presented a slide detailing a clear description and definition of the summer and winter working format

(c) Report on Staff Salary Review - Minute 1132

The Chief Executive then presented the proposal of the workforce salary; he reminded Members that the ADA White Book governs with regards to pay. He stated that the basic hourly rate for a trained operative driving a £200k machine is currently £10.50. There was nothing that could be done about this unless there was a complete review of our current pay structure, which the Officers have completed.

The Chief Executive explained to the Workforce that there will be a review of each post within criteria in order to put them on a scale point salary based on;

- the requirement of that post
- experience of the person in that post
- the qualifications of the person in that post
- the length of service of that person in that post

There will be enhancements if they are instructed to complete overtime and clearly, that scale point salary will broke down to an overtime rate. Within that scale point salary will be included the previous 7.5% bonus payable and 15% increase to cover holiday pay against overtime. The Operations Manager is putting together the criteria for each job role worked on a scale point range.

The Chief Executive has informed the Workforce that this will all be in place and commence on the 17th July 2017, which is the start of the summer cutting season and it was generally well received by the Workforce.

The Chief Executive then presented a spreadsheet detailing the 2017/18 Budget & 10 year estimates for the 2017 Pay Restructure and asked the Finance Manager to explain.

The Finance Manager presented a detailed spreadsheet indicative of salaries for the Workmen restructure. The new post and the post that is disappearing combined calculated is an increase of £26,302 with a 2% uplift over the next 10 years. He added that the aim of this spreadsheet was to show reserve levels at 20% turnover in 10 years' time and the restructure indicates 19.97%. He stated that these plans were originally being looked at for 1st April 2018 therefore the additional transitional costs by bringing this in sooner will be covered by the additional rechargeable income from the work on the SFFD.

The Chief Executive highlighted to the Members the excellent work that the Finance Manager does on these calculations.

The Chairman explained some of the problems identified with the Workforce whilst reviewing this restructure at the Executive Committee meeting. It became apparent that the farmer members amongst the Committee felt we would not have anybody working for the Board at the rates we were paying on their basic rate. The Committee realised that the Officers would have to look at it quite seriously. The restructure was due to circumstances and it seemed right to do it all at the same time. He then asked for any comments.

Mr P Holmes asked if there had been any negative feedback from the workforce. The Operations Manager responded that one or two had come directly with negative concerns but people are entitled to their own opinion. He has spoken with them at great length and they understand that we should move forward.

The Chairman then expressed that the Chief Executive, Finance Manager and Operations Manager have done a lot of work to get this ready for the Executive Committee meeting and this meeting today and he commended them. He hoped the Board will accept that it is a way forward.

Mr V Barker mentioned that when he had previous had conversations with some members of the Workforce, some operatives did not want the overtime as they had already booked themselves to other jobs so they were not available to do the overtime. The Chief Executive responded all overtime by any employee is carried out on a voluntary basis, the Officers cannot guarantee the overtime will be covered. The Operations Manager added that some who have complained about low basic wage have also not been available to do any overtime. The Finance Manager explained that they should have permission from the Board to work for outside bodies.

Mr M Rollinson asked if all the posts will be filled by the start of the Summer cutting. The Chief Executive responded no but we will have the capabilities in current post holders to fill them.

The Chief Executive wanted to thank the Finance Manager on the finance side and the Operations Manager as he is having to cover the position left by the Operations Supervisor and all the other major works running at the moment.

The Chairman added thanks from the Board.

(d) Cutter Suction Silt Dredger Open Event 12th & 13th July 2017 - Minute 1133(a)

The Chief Executive presented slides and a video, outlining the current status of the works on the South Forty Foot Drain, he showed pictures of the removal of bushes, heavy vegetation and cot weed. Pictures showing an amphibious type machine working in the middle of the drain to place cot weed for the larger long reach excavator to remove. He then showed pictures of the Royal Smals Silt Cutter arriving from Holland. They have carried out the operation of removing silt, cutting 100 metres every day, 12 hours a day since the 20th April 2017.

The Chief Executive then showed pictures of the lagoons, the first one being the one at Neslam Bridge; he added that the quality of the returning water is good. He stated that upon visiting this lagoon yesterday, it has dried out and you can almost walk across it. The Officers are pleased with its drying and shrinking. Mr Holmes asked is there water coming out of it and the Chief Executive responded no.

The Chief Executive stated that on the 12th & 13th July Royal Smals will be pumping into this lagoon at Neslam Bridge only for the demonstration days.

The Chief Executive stated that the Board is renting the lagoon land for up to 5 years. He also reported that two weeks ago, the silt from MacKays Pit was spread and levelled over the land, then ploughed and worked and that was only 9 months old.

Mr R Leggott asked if any tests had been performed on the silt extracted. The Chief Executive responded that within the legal lease agreement there are test results from the soil from the lagoon sites along with silt from the riverbed. He explained that on completion when re-introducing the silt to the fields this will be tested and used against the base data of the field.

He stated that they have rented some land from Atkinson & Son at Rippingale Fen and showed a photograph slide of this lagoon in construction. He then showed the video developed by Royal Smals, stating this is still under construction.

The Chief Executive stated that the EA (Mr Adrian Clack) were due to have a meeting this week regarding the finance.

The Officers realise they have a financial shortfall after previously informing the EA that the total works would be completed for £1,097,134. To date the Officers have received orders for £686,760 with one remaining order outstanding for £55,000. Therefore, the Board will be receiving orders in total for £741,760. The Chief Executive stated he has informed the EA that due to circumstances and changes regarding the legal scenarios there could be an additional £100,000 requested, he stated that the EA have accepted and have requested proof of these additional legal charges. The EA have good intention of forwarding the orders.

Unfortunately, due to the shortfall this means the Board will not be able to complete the desilting from Neslam Bridge to the A52 in this financial year. Royal Smals will desilt on the 12th & 13th July near Neslam Bridge at the open demonstration event. The EA do not have the money for the Board to carry on unless other risk management authorities are unable to carry out their obligations for projects in this financial year these opportunities are called "in-year opportunities". The Chief Executive stated this Board has been very successful with in-year opportunities in previous years and is confident this would be the case this year.

The Chief Executive stated that since 12th June 2017, Officers have focused attentions on dissolved oxygen levels in the South Forty Foot Drain. He stated levels are being monitored to a high frequency at the cutting head, immediately behind the desilting machine and further downstream. The Board were given a stop reading of 40, the reading on 13th June 2017 were 150 downstream, 145 immediately behind the machine and 140 at the cutting head. This data is being recorded in case the Board is challenged.

The Chief Executive explained that unfortunately there is the possibility of Spined Loach (*Cobitis taenia*) in the SFFD of which the EA have recorded data between 1995 and 2007 at Casswells Bridge. Because of this and maybe crayfish in the SFFD the EA have stopped (as of 13th June 2017) all cutting and pumping works and with immediately affect the withdrawal of the weir/dam near Neslam Bridge. The Smals vessel is moored up with a view to the EA reassessing the situation on Tuesday, 20 June 2017. The Chief Executive believes that other than the event on the 12th and 13th July we will not re-start works. He stated that the Board has successfully constructed two lagoons, de-bushed from the A52 to Black Hole Drove Pumping Station and de-vegetated the entire length. He stated that unfortunately of the 11km targeted to desilt they have only desilted 5km, from Neslam Bridge to very nearly Casswell Bridge.

The Environmentalists are going to assess the water and the lagoons for evidence of any protected species.

Cllr P Skinner asked to recap; the EA have been involved with this all the time and have known about the condition of the river all the time but chosen not to do anything until now.

The Chief Executive outlined to Members an indication of the costs associated with any delays. He stated that he had asked for any delay rates from Royal Smals before the work commenced. This machine is working 12 hours a day, 6 days a week they work on a demurrage rate of £230 per hour with men on site or £95 per hour when the men are off site. He clarified that the dredger boat has been moored with a reassessment by the EA on Tuesday, 20th June 2017. Royal Smals have sent their two Captains back to Holland at a cost of £600 per person plus any vehicle costs and obviously, there will be other expenses, which will be offset against the FDGiA budget, the EA do not foresee a problem with this.

Mr Barker added we should be very grateful, as both machines have done a very good job on the stretch they have done.

The Chief Executive outlined to Members that the works is phase 1 will recommence, at the latest, 1st April 2018 with a £380,000 budget.

- Phase 2 2018/19 - Neslam Bridge to the A52.
- Phase 3 2019/20 - halfway between A52 and A17.
- Phase 4 2020/21 - the other half of the A52 to the A17

There will be a minimum of two more silt lagoons plus there maybe vegetation to be removed or take a central silt cut to allow the margins to 'slide in'. These schemes will be prepared and ready to commence in case the EA find 'in year' funding opportunities.

The Chief Executive clarified that the open event will be on the 12th & 13th July at Neslam Bridge between 9am - 4pm demonstrating the silt cutting/pumping operation by Royal Smals.

The Chief Executive invited Members to spread the word about the event stating there will be refreshments.

Mr Barker raised his concerns that as Government appointees it is our responsibility to try and make the public aware of what is happening, the waste of public money and whether it should be reported to MPs.

The Chairman responded that it is a fine line between the environmental aspects taking over from the water carrying aspect and felt it should be considered.

Mr Rollinson said that they should have conducted this work before we started because they have not done their job - they are wasting money.

(e) Inspection Tour Netherlands - Minute 1133(b)

The Chairman informed Members that there is a possibility of an inspection tour in the Netherlands. Royal Smals and similar companies Heuvelman Ibis and Vanheck a pump company could be interested in organising and showing the Board Members around and maybe see a drainage board. He asked Members if they would be interested in a tour perhaps 4th June 2018. Members were in favour. He concluded that more details would probably be forthcoming at the November Board meeting.

(f) Period 12 Management Accounts

The Finance Manager stated these are the detailed figures, which go into the summarised unaudited accounts, then summarised further into the Annual Return which is sent to the External Auditors.

The Chairman invited opinions from Members. All favourable.

(g) Internal Auditors Report

The Chairman stated that this item has been covered previously.

(h) Bourne Fen Farm Trust

The Chairman stated that the fund has increased in value. The Finance Manager added it has created enough income to alleviate the rate at the same levels it has done for the last nine years.

1154 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - Agenda Item 6

The Chairman asked Members to review the Annual Governance Statement on page 152 of the agenda. He asked Members if they were in favour that he could sign approval.

The Board approved the Chairman and Finance Manager to sign the Annual Governance Statement.

1155 APPROVAL OF THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2017 - Agenda Item 7

The Chairman stated the unaudited financial statements had been circulated under a separate cover and had been reviewed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 24th May 2017.

The Board RESOLVED that the Unaudited Financial Statements should be approved and that the Chairman and Finance Manager should sign the Balance Sheet, Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities.

1156 TO APPROVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2017 - Agenda Item 8

The Chairman outlined to the Board that Section 2 of the Annual Return summarises the Boards official accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017. The Chairman will be asked to sign approving these accounting statements upon approval of the Board.

The Board RESOLVED that the Annual Return should be approved and that the Chairman and Finance Manager should sign the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2017.

1157 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 9

The Chairman presented the risk register on page 157. The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Register be accepted.

1158 REPORTS - Agenda Item 10

(a) Monthly Accounts - Agenda Item 10(a)

The Board RESOLVED that the Board's monthly accounts, which included February to May 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

(b) Schedule of Consents - Agenda Item 10(b)

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents on pages 174 - 177, he then stated that he would present screen slides on two proposed developments of which no decisions are required to be made, but have several points of interest on some large developments;

(i) Planning B/17/0174 - Land North of Middlegate Road (West) Frampton

Cllr P Skinner, Cllr C Brotherton and Cllr M Brookes declared interest.

The Chief Executive presented a slide showing a design outline view for a proposal for up to 195 dwellings. Detailed on the design is a Black Sluice IDB length of pipeline and open watercourse that this affects. The Officers have highlighted concerns regarding tree planting within the 9m byelaw and the developer is to review.

(ii) Planning H04-0333-17 - Land off Town Dam Lane, Donington

The Chief Executive presented a slide design view of the proposed erection of 81 dwellings. The developer is proposing to discharge at a greenfield rate. The developer has met with the Black Sluice IDB to discuss. The Chief Executive has noticed that there is a significant increase in the density of the dwellings.

(iii) LCJ Mountains Ltd

The Chief Executive stated this is an urgent application received from the applicant who if they do not receive the grant of easement from the Black Sluice IDB by 16th June 2017 will not meet the EA deadline criteria.

The Chief Executive outlined the application which effects Great Hale Pumping Station and pointed out the shaded area on the design map view which is land owned by the Board. The applicant is LCJ Mountains Ltd who want to abstract water from the SFFD albeit at the gravity outfall point at the pumping station, which falls into the SFFD. The EA are prepared to grant an abstraction licence to the quantities requested. The EA now require LCJ Mountains to prove through an easement licence they have permission over or through the landowner's property.

The Chief Executive has spoken with Mountains in order to reduce any over ground obstruction to the Black Sluice or any other land users. The proposal is and the Chief Executive pointed out the red line, which is to dig and bury at their own costs a protected duct that they can push or thread a discharge pipe through from the suction pump. All the specifications will have been agreed and all costs including Black Sluice Solicitors fees will be covered by the applicant.

The Chief Executive explained that the Officers have never been approached with this scenario before and he believed it should be put before the Board. The Chief Executive stated that the Boards Solicitors are looking to grant a revocable licence on a 12 month review period. It is not a permanent fixture and the Board has the ability to instruct the applicant to remove it but clearly, it is a significant scenario to allow private apparatus to be placed underground at one of the Boards Pumping Stations.

The Chairman added that they are using a Boards maintained watercourse to transfer water about 300m upstream to where they want the water to go to in turn abstract it again.

Mr Holmes asked worse case scenario they pump out of the SFFD into the Boards maintained drain and there is a high fluvial event the Board has a drain full of water, which would then need to be pumped. The Chief Executive clarified that it is a 5 inch pump, pumping along a 4 inch discharge pipe, it will have to pump a long time to affect the levels in the watercourse.

Mr Rollinson suggested that if it were any other utility you would charge a wayleave ie for an underground pipe under property.

The Chief Executive responded the Boards Solicitor believes the Board should be introducing a commuted sum within the licence for this privilege.

Mr P Robinson asked what is the advantage of going on Black Sluice property rather than going further along the bank. The Chief Executive responded that he asked the question he believed they had been unable to negotiate a line of entry from anywhere else.

The Chairman asked Members if they were happy to go with 12 months and have the ability to discontinue it and to include a wayleave. The Chief Executive clarified that the Officers should negotiate a figure to go along with this licence agreement. All AGREED.

(c) Rainfall - Agenda Item 10(c)

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that these reports be noted.

1159 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 11

(a) Black Sluice IDB - Website

The Chairman pointed out that the new Black Sluice IDB website was now up and running. He observed that it looked very good and acknowledged well done to all involved in putting it together.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:05.

