

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
26th June 2019 at 2pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

* Mr W Ash	* Cllr T Ashton
* Mr J Atkinson	* Cllr R Austin
* Mr V Barker	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Cooper
* Mr P Holmes	Cllr F Pickett
* Mr R Leggott	* Cllr P Skinner
* Mr P Robinson	Cllr M Head
* Mr M Rollinson	Cllr C Benn
* Mr N J Scott	* Cllr S Walsh
* Mr J R Wray	* Mr M Brookes

* Member Present

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

1465 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Benn and Cllr F Pickett.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr R Austin and Cllr S Walsh to the Board. Further thanking Boston Borough Council for appointing Mr M Brookes to continue representing Boston Borough Council on the Board as a lay member.

The Chairman noted the sad passing of David Dickinson, a past member of the Board.

1466 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

There were no declarations of interest received.

1467 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 8th February 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record with the following amendment:

- Minute 1395(a) – Title 'Monthy Accounts' should be 'Monthly Accounts'

1468 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 4

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to exclude the public from the next part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

1469 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 5

(a) ADA MODEL OF LAND DRAINAGE BYELAWS - Minute 1385(a)

Mr R Leggott questioned whether any further progress had been made with this? The Finance Manager responded that he continues to chase the matter.

(b) DAMAGE TO A CONCRETE FARM YARD AT CLAYDYKE, HOLLAND FEN - Minute 1387(b)

The Chief Executive informed the Board that confirmation in writing has been received from the landowner that a £3,000 contribution towards the future refurbishment of the hardstanding is acceptable.

All AGREED to rescind the previous offer and approve the offer of a £3,000 contribution, in money rather than materials, towards the future refurbishment of the hardstanding.

1470 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - 26 FEBRUARY 2019 - Agenda Item 6(a)

The Northern Works Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 26th February 2019, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) PROPOSED CLEANSING WORKS – DRAIN 5/3, CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, WYBERTON - Minute 1403(d)

The Operations Manager made reference to previous deliberation around whether grass land should be considered as an arable crop eligible for compensation from the Board.

He proposed that these cases be analysed on an individual basis between himself and the landowner, adding that there aren't that many grass land cases that arise.

Mr P Holmes added he felt this was a good idea, making reference to different types of grassland i.e. grazing, conservation, amenity etc.

All AGREED for the Operations Manager to consider and make decisions around grassland in relation to compensation on an individual basis.

It was further noted that the particular case has not yet been resolved.

(ii) WASTE ISSUE - ALBAN RETAIL PARK - Minute 1403(f)

The Operations Manager explained that a site meeting has taken place to discuss the suitability and placement of a fence. The Board's officers gave their opinion and advice around a suitable type and placing of fence. The fence will be erected outside the 9m byelaw distance.

The Northern Works Chairman moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1471 TO ADOPT THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 6(a)(i)

The Northern Works Chairman presented the Northern Works Committee Terms of Reference.

The Finance Manager explained that each committee's Terms of Reference has had a change from 'tri-annual AGM' to 'triennial general meeting'.

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

1472 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE STRUCTURES COMMITTEE - 13 MARCH 2019 - Agenda Item 6(b)

The Structures Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 13th March 2019, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) STRUCTURES REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME - Minute 1412

The Operations Manager made reference to the previous agreement that an estimated cost for temporary additional staff to complete culvert inspections be presented at this meeting.

He continued that there are approximately 1200 surveys to be completed, at an estimated 15 inspections per day, the estimated cost to the Board would be £37,000. At an estimated 20 inspections per day, the estimated cost to the Board would be £27,000. This is based on purely external staff, with no Black Sluice IDB staff included for the culvert inspections.

Mr P Holmes questioned the difference in cost between Black Sluice IDB workforce completing the inspections and external temporary staff?

The Operations Manager stated that he has based his estimations on £25 per hour. The Finance Manager stated that the average cost per hour for the workforce is £31.

The Operations Manager added that the sooner the inspections are completed; the sooner a management plan of culvert replacements can be produced.

Mr W Ash suggested students may be a way forward employed as a temporary summer job.

All AGREED for additional external staff to be employed to complete the culvert surveys.

(ii) RAILWAY CONTRIBUTION - Minute 1413(a)

Mr V Barker questioned if any further progress had been made? The Chief Executive explained that nobody seems to be in a position to answer and so it may have to come from the Board's solicitor to force a response.

The Structures Chairman moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1473 TO ADOPT THE STRUCTURES POLICY - Agenda Item 6(b)(i)

The Structures Chairman presented the Structures Policy.

The Board RESOLVED that the Structures Policy be adopted.

1474 TO ADOPT THE STRUCTURES COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 6(b)(ii)

The Structures Chairman presented the Structures Terms of Reference.

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

1475 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - 3 APRIL 2019 - Agenda Item 6(c)

The Southern Works Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2019, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) RMRN BSIDB ADOPTION OF EA MAIN RIVERS – HORBLING CATCHWATER, TOWN BECK & DIVERSION DRAIN – Minute 1419(d)

Mr M Rollinson stated that a landowner has been very complimentary towards the Board in that he didn't flood as he has done previously which he feels it due to the Board's maintenance.

The Southern Works Chairman moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1476 TO ADOPT THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE – Agenda Item 6(c)(i)

The Southern Works Chairman presented the Southern Works Terms of Reference.

The Board RESOLVED that the Southern Works Terms of Reference be adopted.

1477 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE - 1 MAY 2019 - Agenda Item 6(d)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 1st May 2019, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

The Audit & Risk Chairman moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1478 TO ADOPT THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE – Agenda Item (d)(i)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Audit & Risk Terms of Reference.

The Board RESOLVED that the Audit & Risk Terms of Reference be adopted.

1479 TO ADOPT THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (No. 01) - Agenda Item 6(d)(ii)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Risk Management Strategy.

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Management Strategy be adopted.

1480 TO ADOPT THE PROCUREMENT POLICY (No. 04) - Agenda Item 6(d)(iii)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Risk Management Strategy.

The Board RESOLVED that the Procurement Policy be adopted.

1481 TO ADOPT THE RELAXATION OF BOARD BYELAW No. 10 POLICY (No. 08) - Agenda Item 6(d)(iv)

The Chief Executive presented the Relaxation of Board Byelaw No.10 Policy.

He made further reference to the irrigation and abstraction meeting held in May 2019 and the success of it. The only factor outstanding from the meeting is the approval of a high visibility marker post, making reference to the post situated on the grass bank outside the offices, which members were directed to view before the meeting. This marker post will be suggested to the attendees of the irrigation meeting. The cost of the post is £25 + VAT. There is also going to be a further meeting held with utilities such as Anglian Water.

The Board RESOLVED that the Relaxation of Board Byelaw No.10 Policy be adopted.

1482 TO ADOPT THE H&S YOUNG PERSONS SAFETY AT WORK POLICY (No. 26) – Agenda Item 6(d)(v)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the H&S Young Persons at Work Policy.

The Board RESOLVED that the H&S Young Persons at Work Policy be adopted.

1483 TO ADOPT THE COMMERCIAL WORKS POLICY (No. 40) - Agenda Item 6(d)(vi)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Commercial Works Policy.

Cllr S Walsh noted that there was no time limit on quotations, which he suggested there should be, perhaps three months?

All AGREED with the addition of a three-month time limit on quotations being valid.

The Board RESOLVED that the Commercial Works Policy be adopted with the above amendment.

1484 TO ADOPT THE PUBLIC SECTOR CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT POLICY (No. 41) - Agenda Item 6(d)(vii)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement Policy.

The Board RESOLVED that the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement Policy be adopted.

1485 TO ADOPT THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL CHARGES & FEES POLICY (No. 44) - Agenda Item 6(d)(viii)

The Chief Executive presented the Development Control Charges & Fees Policy.

The Chief Executive explained that the basis of the policy has derived from South Holland IDB and is being pushed to be set as a national policy through ADA. He felt that all IDBs should be using the same policy so that all IDBs can justify the figures used and so that they are all calculated through the same method. If different IDBs use different calculations this could lead to challenge from developers.

He further referred to paragraph 2.4; the current maximum charge applicable per impermeable hectare of £129,456. It was explained that this figure is calculated from the mean value of land with potential development and land with outline planning permission as follows:

- £60,000 (per ha - land with potential development price)
- £500,460 (per ha - land with outline planning permission price)
- Average value of these figures: £280,230 per ha
- The area of an attenuation facility to hold the water is 0.271 ha.
- The average value is then multiplied by 0.271.
- The cost associated with the construction of the attenuation facility and a 30-year maintenance scheme is then added, which equates to the final figure of £129,456. This will be reviewed annually.

The Chief Executive added that this new policy was presented to a local developer who couldn't see a problem with it.

The Board RESOLVED that the Development Control Charges and Fees Policy be adopted.

1486 TO ADOPT THE MOBILE PHONES & DEVICES POLICY (No. 45) - Agenda Item 6(d)(ix)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Mobile Phones & Devices Policy.

The Board RESOLVED that the Mobile Phones & Devices Policy be adopted.

1487 TO ADOPT THE PENSIONS DISCRETION POLICY (No. 30) - Agenda Item 6(d)(x)

The Finance Manager presented the Pensions Discretion Policy.

It was explained that there had been some confusion about the number of discretions outlined within the policy at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting and so the Finance Manager was requested to do some further research around it.

Within the introduction, there are five specific discretions, two further mandatory discretions and two further discretions outlined. This is followed by details of the five specific discretions, and the two further mandatory discretions and two further discretions are combined – which explains the confusion around the number of discretions detailed.

The Board RESOLVED that the Pensions Discretion Policy be adopted.

1488 TO APPROVE THE INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2018/19 - Agenda Item 6(d)(xi)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Internal Auditors Report, outlining the achievement of 'substantial assurance'. He commended the Board's staff on this respectable achievement.

The Board RESOLVED that the Internal Auditors Report be noted.

1489 TO APPROVE THE AUDIT PROGRAMME 2019/20 - Agenda Item 6(d)(xii)

The Audit & Risk Chairman presented the Audit Programme 2019/20.

Mr V Barker made reference to the asset register, making further reference to the Risegate Eau. He questioned if the Board receive wayleave payments for the electricity and telephone poles on this land? The Finance Manager noted that the Board receive £220 wayleave per year, further noting that it would likely cost more to pursue any further than would be gained. Mr R Leggott added that it should be remembered that the wayleave payment is then received annually thereafter. Mr V Barker continued that he will bring in his own wayleave in for comparison.

The Board RESOLVED that the Audit Programme 2019/20 be noted.

1490 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 15 MAY 2019 - Agenda Item 6(e)

The Environment Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2019, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) INVASIVE SPECIES - Minute 1439(j)

The Operations Manager noted that a first year of trials for mowing yellow flower has been conducted during May and will be completed again next year. Mr J Atkinson noted that he is happy with what has been completed so far and added that his personal experience of mowing the yellow flower has eradicated the problem. The Operations Manager further added that he has requested with the EA what work the Board can complete on the South Forty Foot Drain in relation to yellow flower and is currently awaiting a response.

The Environment Chairman moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1491 TO ADOPT THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 6(e)(i)

The Environment Chairman presented the Environment Committee's Terms of Reference.

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

1492 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 29 MAY 2019 - Agenda Item 6(f)

The Executive Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 29th May 2019, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

(a) MATTERS ARISING

(i) 2018/19 ACCOUNTS - Minute 1456

The Chairman made reference to some further documents handed out, the written explanation for the accounts, and questioned whether the Board would like these including in the future rather than the accounts in just numerical format? The Board AGREED they would be of benefit to be included in future Board agendas.

(ii) EIGHT YEAR PLANT REPLACEMENT BUDGET - Minute 1461

The Chairman made reference to the Executive Committee's allowance of £25,000 as per the procurement policy, further adding that a purchase of £31,000 was sanctioned due to it being not financially prudent to wait for the Board meeting as the machine is required for this cutting season.

It was questioned whether the Delegation of Authority should be altered, in reference to the Executive Committee's budget, especially in consideration of the rising cost of machinery.

Proposed by Cllr M Cooper, seconded by Mr V Barker, all AGREED to change the Delegation of Authority and the Executive's Terms of Reference, to increase the Executive Committee's allowance to £40,000.

(iii) EIGHT YEAR PLANT REPLACEMENT BUDGET - Minute 1461

The Operations Manager referred to the Twiga machines, particularly the oldest of the machines – the 2015 machine. It was identified last year that the flail rotor canopy was in poor condition and the decision was taken to get a new canopy at the end of the season. Unfortunately, at the start of this season, the flail rotor has been bent. The Board do have a spare flail rotor, but if this is used then obviously there would no longer be a spare. The cost of a new flail head from Spearhead is £8,500. An alternative could be a Herder flail mowing head at a cost of £13,500. The Operations Manager explained that he felt the Herder would be a better head in respect of the life expectancy of the machines. He has also spoken to other IDBs who successfully use Twiga machines with a Herder head. The Herder head should arrive at the end of July 2019.

Mr V Barker made reference to problems with the brackets and questioned if having a heavier head will therefore cause more problems? The Operations Manager explained that he has spoken to other IDBs in the area using this combination who had encountered no further problems because of it.

Mr P Robinson questioned if the Twiga machine can be purchased without a head? The Operations Manager confirmed that they can be purchased without a head, which will be considered in future.

(iv) REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF PUMPING STATION CONTINGENCY PLANNING - Minute 1462

The Chief Executive confirmed that the quotation was for only one pumping station and so the order has been placed for Holland Fen Pumping Station.

(v) MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS VISIT - Minute 1464(b)

The Chief Executive informed the Board of the Mid Level Commissioners visiting on the 4th July 2019 and invited members to attend.

(vi) PSCA WORKS - LAYING OF STONE - Minute 1464(b)

The Chief Executive stated that this has all been processed and the EA have already paid the invoice.

The Executive Chairman moved that these minutes and resolutions contained therein be accepted by the Board. All AGREED.

1493 TO ADOPT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 6(f)(i)

The Executive Chairman presented the Executive Committee's Terms of Reference.

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

1494 TO APPROVE THE PERIOD 12 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS - Agenda Item 6(f)(ii)

The Finance Manager presented the Period 12 Management Accounts.

The Board RESOLVED that the Period 12 Management Accounts be approved.

1495 TO APPROVE THE BOURNE FEN FARM ACCOUNTS - Agenda Item 6(f)(iii)

The Finance Manager presented the Bourne Fen Farm Accounts.

The Board RESOLVED that the Bourne Fen Farm Accounts be approved.

1496 TO APPROVE THE EIGHT YEAR PLANT REPLACEMENT BUDGET - Agenda Item 6(f)(iv)

The Chairman presented the Eight Year Plant Replacement Budget.

The Board RESOLVED that the Eight Year Plant Replacement Budget be approved.

1497 TO APPROVE THE DRAFT UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019 - Agenda Item 7

The Finance Manager presented the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2019.

The Board RESOLVED for the Chairman to sign the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2019.

1498 TO REVIEW & APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - Agenda Item 8

The Finance Manager presented the Annual Governance Statement.

The Board RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be signed and approved.

1499 TO APPROVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

The Finance Manager presented the Annual Return.

The Board RESOLVED that the Annual Return be signed and approved.

1500 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 10

The Board RESOLVED that the Risk Register be accepted.

1501 REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING: - Agenda Item 11

(a) MONTHLY ACCOUNTS (FEBRUARY 2019 - MAY 2019)

The Board's monthly accounts, inclusive of February 2019 - May 2019, were circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) SCHEDULE OF CONSENTS (FEBRUARY 2019 - MAY 2019)

The Board's Schedule of Consents, inclusive of February 2019 - May 2019, were circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(i) 2019/C08 – ERECTION OF TIMBER DECKING WITHIN WATERCOURSE

Mr V Barker questioned consent 2019/C08? The Chief Executive explained that it is in the North Forty Foot Drain, on a bank that can't be maintained mechanically due to the proximity of houses. There was a previously consented timber decking area. Details have been given about the materials, support and stability methods and the height of the decking above the water level.

(c) RAINFALL

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

The Chief Executive added the following figures:

- 25-year average of Swineshead Depot = 52.7mm
Actual rainfall to date in June 2019 = 139.8mm
- 25-year average of Black Hole Drove = 54.8mm
Actual rainfall to date in June 2019 = 115.6mm

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

1502 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 12

(a) FLOOD EVENT - JUNE 2019

The Chairman thanked all Black Sluice IDB staff and Board Members who were involved in the event.

The Finance Manager gave an informative presentation about the recent flooding emergency event, explaining the timeline of events as follows:

10th & 11th June 2019

The rain began on the 10th June 2019, receiving 138mm in 2 days (twice the monthly average).

12th - 14th June 2019

A breach was become aware of on the evening of the 12th June 2019 on the River Steeping, which was to be assessed by drone the following morning.

On the afternoon of the 13th June 2019, it was declared an emergency. Evacuation of parts of Wainfleet commenced thereafter and military aid requested to plug the breach in the River Steeping. In addition to this, sewerage issues were being reported in Holbeach. The first military helicopter arrived, starting to plug the breach with forty tonnes of 1 tonne sand bags. This followed by three military helicopters on the 14th June 2019, to plug the breach with 270 tonne bags.

15th June 2019

The following day, 15th June 2019, the repairs were looking positive, with some water coming through the plugged breach. However, a crack in the bank 1km west of the breach was discovered. There was also concern around the water rising and getting closer to Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station. Lindsey Marsh IDB took the decision to shut the pumping station down at just after midday. Within two minutes of shutting the pumping station down, the fire and rescue team arrived and started pumping out the electrical panel, where the water was entering. Once pumped down, it was identified where the leak was occurring and the gap plugged. If the fire and rescue team hadn't been able to pump and the pumping station had been forced to continue with the shutdown, houses in Thorpe St Peter would have flooded within twenty to twenty-five minutes. Water from the River Steeping was moved with ultra-high volume pumps into the Bell Water and through Witham 4th IDBs system. These pumps were moving 1.6m³ of water per second.

16th June 2019

On the 16th June 2019, thunderstorms and more rain were expected, causing concern that if the predicted rainfall fell in the Wainfleet catchment, further banks could breach. Due to these expectations, 590 properties at highest risk remained evacuated. Fortunately, the Wainfleet catchment only received a further 4mm of rain and so the possible emergency that had been planned for, didn't happen.

20th - 22nd June 2019

A public meeting was held on the evening of the 20th June 2019, with all evacuees being told during the next day, it would be safe to return by the evening of the 21st June 2019. The emergency state was stood down on the 22nd June 2019.

The Chief Executive continued, making reference to the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD), explaining that the Board had 4 recording telemetry devices along the SFFD at Chain Bridge, Quadring, Dowsby and Black Hole Drove. He presented on screen a graph showing the trace of the telemetry at these four pumping stations, explaining that the peaks of the red line are Black Hole Drove Pumping Station pumping into the SFFD. The troughs of the blue line represent the gates being open and the tide being out. The yellow and green line would also be expected to follow this trend.

The Chief Executive continued by presenting several telemetry traces for comparative purposes, highlighting how efficiently the new combination of the gravity sluice and navigation lock is working. The Chief Executive made particular reference to the telemetry trace of 10/06/19 – 20/06/19, highlighting the troughs labelled one to nineteen. These troughs represent the navigation lock being opened at the same time as the gravity sluice.

The troughs after the nineteenth is when it was the gravity door only being opened. Therefore, if it was the gravity door only, the recovery period would have been three times longer. It was further noted that the missing trough of number nine was just a recording failing of the telemetry system.

The Chief Executive made further reference to another telemetry trace of 09/06/19 – 26/06/19, highlighting that on the morning of the meeting, 26th June 2019, the South Forty Foot Drain was only 200mm above the level it was at two days before the commencement of the rain on the 9th June 2019.

The Chief Executive added that the main problem encountered for the Board was the vast amount of weed at the weedscreen cleaners. The smaller pumping stations don't have automatic weedscreen cleaners and so the workforce had to move it manually with rakes. Some of the machines with cutting baskets and flails were sent out early along the pump drains to try and remove vegetation.

He concluded with the following factual figures:

- Average 5 days' rainfall over catchment = 104mm.
- Entire catchment (67,315 ha) at 104mm = 70,007,600 tonnes of water.
- 1,040 tonnes of water per hectare.
- 50% pumped (50% highland carriers) = 3.5 million tonnes of water pumped (lifted) every day for ten days, system nearing total recovery ten days after main event ended.

Mr J Atkinson made reference to flooding at Dowsby Lode, the Operations Manager confirmed that it has been surveyed and is on programme to be completed this year.

Mr V Barker questioned if another telemetry trace could be shown for the River Witham and Haven, as he felt it was fortunate that the River Witham hadn't started its flow. The Chief Executive noted that he will find this information.

Mr P Holmes additionally felt another telemetry trace from seven years ago would be interesting, when two pumps were running. The Chief Executive noted that he will find this information.

Cllr M Cooper noted the very little difference in the height of the water running down the River Witham.

Mr M Brookes questioned if the documentation from the Environment Agency on the operational procedure for the sluice and navigation lock has yet been received? The Chief Executive noted that he had previously been informed that it would be released in quarter one of 2019, he has now been further informed that it will be quarter two.

Mr P Holmes made reference to water entering the pumping station through the electrical ducts and questioned if the Board's pumping stations have been assessed for this sort of scenario? The Chief Executive responded that all the pumping stations are being assessed.

All AGREED that a message of thanks be sent from the Board to all employees.

(b) VACANT POSITIONS - AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit & Risk Chairman noted that he has two vacancies on the committee for appointed members.

With Cllr R Austin's previous presence on the Audit & Risk Committee and Cllr S Walsh's presence on the Audit & Governance Committee for South Holland District Council, it was proposed that they become members of the Audit & Risk Committee.

All AGREED that Cllr R Austin and Cllr S Walsh be on the Audit & Risk Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:00.