

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
22nd November 2022 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr K C Casswell

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

* Member Present

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

2053 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2054 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 2

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Ash and Cllr M Head. The Chairperson welcomed Cllr R Reid to his first Board meeting.

2055 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

A declaration of interest was received from Mr V Barker in relation to Minute 2058(e), the Joint Works Committee Meeting Minutes of 4th October 2022 in relation to Minute 2040(d) of those minutes (Drainage and maintenance issues – land south of the Risegate Eau, Gosberton Fen).

2056 Minutes of the last Board meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 14th June 2022, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2057 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 5

(a) Trapping of mink - Minute 1988(a)(i)

The Operations Manager noted that seven mink have been caught since May 2022, on or adjacent to the North Forty Foot Drain.

(b) Operations Flyswat - Minute 1988(a)(ii)

The Operations Manager noted that since the North Sea Camp are no longer involved in Operation Flyswat, it has not been as successful. Noting that it is being more and more frequent that the Board carry out the whole process themselves, removing any rubbish and bringing it back to the depot.

Cllr P Skinner suggested that the Operations Manager send him an email regarding this so that he can deal with it.

(c) Policy 11: Biodiversity Action Plan - Minute 1988(a)(iii)

Correction – the butterfly sanctuary is at Kirton *Marsh*, not Kirton *Holme*.

(d) Rainfall - Minute 1995(d)

Correction – George *Stickler* should be George *Tickler*.

(e) Desilting of the North Forty Foot Drain - Minute 1996(c)

The Operations Manager explained, following discussion with the Environment Agency (EA), it has been agreed that the Board will commit to grass cutting the crest and the banks of the South Forty Foot Drain from Black Hole Drove to the railway crossing downstream of the A52. It is 26km linear length and purchase order of £80,000 has been agreed for the Board to commit to those works.

Mr V Barker questioned how the machines will progress down the west bank? The Operations Manager noted that multiple machine moves will be required, which has been allowed for in the costing.

2058 To receive the minutes of the following meetings - Agenda Item 6

(a) Southern Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Southern Works Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Southern Works Committee meeting held on the 5th July 2022, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters Arising:

(i) JCB Hydradig – Minute 2003(k)

Mr P Holmes noted that he has spoken to Nick Morris (Welland & Deepings IDB) who has praised the JCB Hydradig, so much so that their Board has ordered another one.

(b) Northern Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Northern Works Committee presented the unconfirmed Minutes of the Northern Works Committee meeting held on the 19th July 2022, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters Arising

(i) Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station – Transformer Issues – Minute 2013(h)

The Operations Manager noted that following conversation with National Grid (formerly Western Power Distribution), it was felt that the transformer at Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station should be raised to provide resilience and assurance that it won't get submerged in any future flood water.

National Grid will provide the equipment and labour at their cost if the Board supplies the transformer. The Operations Manager gave an estimated cost for this of £45,000.

(ii) Kirton Marsh Pumping Station – Incoming electrical supply – Minute 2013(i)

The Operations Manager reminded the Board that the incoming electrical supply is below the floor level of Kirton Marsh Pumping Station. Quotes have been received to change the level of the supply, at £6,400 (National Grid). The Operations Manager gave an estimated total cost, including the costs of the Board, of £8,000. This will be reviewed within the capital works going forward.

To adopt the following:

(i) Policy No. 46: Crop Loss Compensation

Policy No. 46, Crop Loss Compensation, was presented.

The Board RESOLVED that the Crop Loss Compensation Policy (No. 46) be adopted.

(c) Notes of an informal, non-public meeting (to discuss the insurance renewal) held on 14th September 2022

The Chairperson presented the notes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2022, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(d) Executive Committee

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 28th September 2022, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters arising:

(i) 2022/23 Budget and Ten-Year Estimates - Minute 2022(a)

The Finance Manager referred to the electricity and that the new rates still haven't been received. However, based on the estimates and assumptions provided by Woldmarsh – last year the Board spent £141,000 on electricity, for the same consumption with the estimated new rates it would cost £232,000 (64% increase). Based on the wet winter of 2019/2020 and electricity used during that event, it would now cost an estimated £1.067million.

The Chairperson noted that he has raised the concern of electricity costs at the ADA Conference, at which Hazel Durant, DEFRA Head of Flood and Coast Policy, noted that there would be no 'pot of money' but they were committed to look at options with IDB's.

Cllr P Skinner added that himself and Cllr T Ashton have also been working on this matter, including writing to the Secretary of State. Cllr T Ashton added that this is a matter affecting all IDB's, noting that Lindsey Marsh IDB are reviewing their rate increase this week and are considering a 22% - 30% increase. He further noted that he has engaged with Victoria Atkins MP and John Hayes MP and received a positive reception. The 151 Finance Officer for the three Councils has also produced a presentation for the Department for levelling up, housing and communities (DLUHC) and DEFRA. Cllr T Ashton continued that the ask of £8million that the three council's currently pay in Special Levy represents more than 50% of their council tax precept. However, Cllr T Ashton noted that he is not confident that this ask will be successful and so the ask to be really 'pushed' is for the special levy to be taken outside of the council tax referendum cap, so that if Board's have to increase the rate by a lot, it doesn't affect the council's own revenue budgets.

Mr V Barker questioned if the cost of running the pumps via tractor and diesel has been compared to that of the electric running costs? The Finance Manager noted that they have calculated an average price per pump hour, but that he doesn't know how much it would cost to be run by tractor, or even diesel generator.

The Operations Manager further noted that Jane Froggatt (Chief Executive, Witham & Humber IDB) spoke at the ADA Conference also, noting that the standing rate for electricity is more than their whole budget for the year for running their pumps and so are now looking at source of alternative power i.e., generators. The Operations Manager noted that they can look into alternative power sources and compare costs. The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be a beneficial exercise and will be in touch with some of the agricultural members of the Board to assist with producing costs to power by tractor.

Mr M Rollinson noted that this is an international problem, and the Board's good connections with Holland, questioning whether ADA has approached Holland? The Chairperson noted that nothing was mentioned about power in relation to Holland.

(ii) Lincolnshire ADA Pay Award 2023/24 - Minute 2024(a)

The Finance Manager informed the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Pay & Conditions Committee negotiated a pay award for 2023/24 that was presented and accepted the Lincs ADA Branch meeting (2.1% consolidated increase in April 2023 and £1,500 unconsolidated payment paid over twelve months). For a scale point 15 (average workforce salary), that equates to an increase of just under 8%. This pay award has been to ballot with the union and has been rejected by 85% with a 75% turnout. All employers within the Lincs ADA Pay and Conditions are now going to meet again on 5th December to decide how to move forward.

The Chairperson added that Lindsey Marsh IDB decided to no longer be part of the Lincs ADA Pay & Conditions Committee due to high increases, however, are now giving a pay award for 2023/24 of 5.5% consolidated increase and an additional £1,000 unconsolidated payment.

The Chairperson expressed his disappointment that the IDB no longer wanted to be part of joint negotiations but have then given a big increase anyway.

The Finance Manager noted that, currently, the union officers are in discussion to produce a counteroffer and feedback so that the employers have a starting point for further negotiation.

Mr P Holmes noted that, in raw monetary terms, the two figures aren't that far apart, it is just that a higher percentage of Lindsey Marsh's award is consolidated.

(iii) Witham 4th IDB / Lower Witham - Minute 2028(a)

The Chairperson noted that the Board's engagement with Witham 4th IDB about the potential to share some resources has reached an impasse.

Cllr T Ashton noted that the Board is already a large Board and would be keen to retain its independence.

To approve the following:

(iv) Timetable for 2023 meetings

The proposed timetable for meetings during 2023 was AGREED as below:

Executive	Tuesday 17 January	2pm
Board	Tuesday 14 February	2pm
Environment	Tuesday 7 March	2pm
Structures	Tuesday 21 March	2pm
Northern Works	Tuesday 4 April	-
Audit & Risk	Tuesday 25 April	2pm
Executive	Tuesday 23 May	2pm
Board	Tuesday 13 June	2pm
Southern Works	Tuesday 4 July	-
Executive	Thursday 14 September	2pm
Joint Works	Tuesday 3 October	2pm
Audit & Risk	Tuesday 24 October	2pm
Board	Tuesday 21 November	2pm
Executive	Tuesday 12 December	2pm

To adopt the following:

(i) Executive Committee Terms of Reference

The Executive Committee Terms of Reference were presented.

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

(e) Joint Works Committee

The Chairperson of the Joint Works Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 4th October 2022, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

Matters Arising:

(i) Water Levels – Minute 2034(b)

The Operations Manager referenced the trial of raised water levels at various catchments and referenced Dunsby Pumping Station as an example. The pumps have not pumped since 12th October. Usually, Dunsby would start pumping at its current start level of -0.3mODN and pump down 300mm to -0.6mODN. Following rainfall, last night the level had increased to +0.2mODN at which point questions were received from a ratepayer about why the water levels were so high, as his land drains were now partially under water. The pump start level was reduced and pumped for 12 hours back to its normal stop level. Dunsby Pumping Station hasn't pumped for five weeks until this point and would usually pump every other day.

Mr M Brookes noted that he is pleased there is a saving from this.

(ii) Sempringham Fen Weedscreen Cleaner / Pumping Station Refurbishment - Minute 2037(b)

The Operations Manager noted that the lease agreement with The Crown Estate for the land for the dump area is still not complete.

(iii) South Forty Foot Upper Catchment Natural Flood Management (NFM) - Minute 2037(e)

Mr V Barker questioned the progress of this work? The Operations Manager responded that Lesley Sharpe has completed all surveys and engaged with all committed landowners, however, no works have commenced yet. The Board is ready and has purchased materials, however, agreements are still awaited from the landowners to commence works. There are around fifty sites identified.

To adopt the following:

(i) Southern Works Committee Terms of Reference

The Southern Works Terms of Reference were presented.

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

(ii) Northern Works Committee Terms of Reference

The Northern Works Terms of Reference were presented.

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

(f) Audit & Risk Committee

The Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on the 25th October 2022, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received.

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairperson noted the Risk Register, particularly Risk 1.8 - Loss of Senior Staff, which relates to the circumstances of the Chief Executive. He noted that these circumstances have now changed and so proposed that the risk be re-evaluated at Minute 2060.

To approve the following:

(i) Annual Return including External Auditor's Opinion for 2021/22

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairperson noted that there were no matters of concern reported within the audit. The committee expressed their congratulations to the team on such an achievement.

To adopt the following:

(ii) Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference

The Audit & Risk Terms of Reference were presented.

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

(iii) Policy No. 04: Procurement Policy

The Procurement Policy was presented, noting the proposed new paragraph regarding the SCAPE Access Agreement for the Public Sector, the addition of which will allow the Board to be able to place orders through this framework which benefits Grant in Aid applications as it speeds up the procurement process, whilst maintaining good governance.

The Board RESOLVED that the Procurement Policy (No. 4) be adopted.

(iv) Policy No. 30: Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Statement Scheme Employers

The Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Statement Scheme Employers Policy was presented, noting that there is no change in content or meaning, it is just a change of wording, in the notes, as per the guide template provided by the pension provider.

The Board RESOLVED that the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Statement Scheme Employers Policy (No. 30) be adopted.

(v) To review draft Policy No. 48: Substance and Alcohol Misuse in conjunction with the view of the Union

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairperson informed the Board that the Audit & Risk Committee requested that the opinion of the union be sought regarding this proposed new policy. The union have responded (response included within agenda) and had no objections with it.

The Audit & Risk Committee Chairperson felt it was a beneficial policy to have to be a deterrent and being able to test employees, if necessary.

Cllr P Skinner noted that you can also now test work surfaces etc.

The Board RESOLVED that the new Substance and Alcohol Misuse policy (No. 48) be adopted.

2059 Byelaw infringement and engaging with the local planning authorities - Agenda Item 7

The Chief Executive referred back to the decision made at the Board meeting on 14th June 2022, for him to write to the four councils planning departments within the Board's catchment (Boston Borough Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council and North Kesteven District Council) and highlight all of the IDB maintained watercourses in their catchment and requesting their views on the proposal that the Board is contemplating of taking an approach that allows nothing to be consented in the 9 metre easement strip.

One response was received, from Boston Borough Council (BBC) (included with the agenda).

The Chief Executive noted that the Board do already have a brief guidance note for property developers and proposed that the Board collectively develop a 'Best Practice Guide' with the four Councils over the next twelve months. The Chief Executive also invited any comments on the response from BBC.

Mr M Rollinson felt that there was a lack of understanding of the byelaws, noting the BBC suggestion of planting trees within their response.

The Chairperson noted he also felt it was disappointing.

Cllr R Reid apologised that there had been no response from South Kesteven District Council, noting that he raised it with the Assistant Director of Planning this morning, noting that they would be comfortable in endorsing such a best practice guide.

Cllr T Ashton noted that he doesn't believe the Board's position will undermine the Southeast Lincolnshire Joint Plan and the delivery of the housing targets.

Cllr S Walsh noted that he has taken this up with the South Holland District Council Planning department and that he got the response that they will work within the decision the Board take.

The Chief Executive noted the absence of Mr W Ash at this meeting and that he has previously expressed strong views about this matter and so will contact Mr W Ash about this item following the meeting.

Mr P Robinson noted that the impression he got from Mike Gildersleeves (BBC) when he attended the Structures meeting was that the developers wanted to put as many properties as they could on the site and that there was no sympathy towards the Board's position.

The Chief Executive concluded that he would contact the four councils to engage with producing a best practice guide.

2060 To review the Risk Register - Agenda Item 8

The Finance Manager referred to Risk 1.8, Loss of senior staff, suggesting that the wording be amended to 'Unplanned loss of senior staff'.

It was also noted that the case against the Chief Executive Officer, Ian Warsap, has been concluded with the Crown Prosecution Service offering no evidence and a Not Guilty verdict being recorded, therefore suggesting that the risk could be lowered. All AGREED that the Chief Executive can now return to full duties and to amend the score for Risk 1.8 to a risk score of 4, with the potential impact of risk at medium and the potential likelihood of risk at medium.

The Chairperson expressed how pleased he is, both from a personal and Board perspective, that the accusations against the Chief Executive have been resolved in the way they have. The Board echoed this.

Mr V Barker referred to Risk 1.9, Insufficient finance to carry out works, and Risk 7.1, Collecting insufficient income to fund expenditure, in relation to the increase in electricity rates, questioning whether those risk scores are appropriate?

The Finance Manager felt that this matter relates to Risk 1.9, as opposed to Risk 7.1. The Risk Management Matrix within the Risk Management Strategy was displayed on screen to help determine the appropriate risk score. It was felt that the potential impact could result in major financial loss over £100,000 and that it is difficult to predict the likelihood. All AGREED a risk score of 6, with the potential impact being high and the potential likelihood being medium.

The Board RESOLVED the Risk Register be accepted with the above amendments.

2061 To receive a report on Finance and Admin - Agenda Item 9

(a) Period 07 Management Accounts

The Finance Manager presented the Period 07 Management Accounts, highlighting the below points:

- Income - Of the 27 summons sent, 20 of them paid or contacted the Board to make other arrangements before proceeding and so only 7 are going to court.

Mr D Withnall referred to two ratepayers of the 7 going to court, account reference 2156-9 (£910.21) and account reference 3667-9 (£84.86), who are brothers. 2156-9 has passed away and the Board were asked, by his brother 3667-9, to not take it to court. The Finance Manager agreed that he would make the court aware of the circumstances and that the court list would be amended to the Executor's of the deceased. 3667-9 has provided no information around who the Executor's are and whether probate has yet been granted. The Magistrates Court therefore agreed to issue the liability order to the Executor's of the deceased as well as the liability for 3667-9. The Finance Manager has therefore written to 3667-9 offering the Board's condolences and requesting that he informs the Board of the Executors and new occupiers as soon as he is able. The Finance Manager questioned whether the Board wanted him to proceed with the bailiffs?

The Chairperson didn't think anything would be able to be done until probate is granted anyway.

Cllr T Ashton was of the opinion to pursue the recovery of monies owed.

- Expenditure – In reference to the Drain Maintenance figure, the wrong plant recharge rates have been used this year and so has been corrected and backdated to 1st April 2022. This amendment reduces the Drain Maintenance by £30,000 and reduced the plant account by £43,000. However, by the end of the year, it still looks like the plant reserve surplus will still be greater than budgeted. These adjustments will be reflected within the period 08 management accounts.

(b) Drainage Rates Report

The Finance Manager referred to the revaluation within the report, confirming that he has visited the site and the poultry house, whilst not totally decommissioned it is dilapidated, photos were shown on screen and all AGREED to the amended valuation and to write off of £701.19.

Account Ref	Location of Revaluation	Description	Existing Valuation	Proposed Valuation	Write Off
3393	Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill	Poultry house decommissioned	£5,144	£30	£701.19

The Finance Manager referred to the write off within the report, all AGREED to the write off of £481.77.

Account Ref	Location of Land	Description	Write Off
2671	Burton Pedwardine	Owner declared bankrupt in 2020 and has since passed away. Son has taken on the land under his own company, and they have paid the drainage rates since the day they took the land on. We have lodged a claim with the insolvency company dealing with the estate but do not expect to receive anything towards the outstanding balance.	£481.77

(c) Quarter 2 Forecast

The Finance Manager noted that this forecast is particularly important as it is used when producing next year's budget, inviting any questions.

2062 To receive the annual report on Health and Safety - Agenda Item 10

The Operations Manager presented the annual report on health and safety, noting that in addition to training included within the report, the Board have also now committed to chainsaw and confined space training due to take place in December 2022 / January 2023.

The Operations Manager outlined to the Board that at 9 of the Board's 34 pumping stations, the Board own a transformer to reduce the incoming electricity supply voltage. Also noting the importance of these transformers and their reliability to ensure there is pumping capacity at the stations.

The Operations Manager further noted that the transformer at Gosberton Pumping Station provides power for both Gosberton and Dowsby Pumping Station. This transformer is at risk of failure.

The Operations Manager next noted that the Board's Officers have tried to define what a 'failure' would entail – i.e., would it simply just stop working or could it explode and cause damage? However, nobody is able to provide an answer as to what would happen if it did fail. Mr C Wray referred to the Viking Link substation and that they have built concrete walls which are 'blast walls' which is their sole purpose.

The Operations Manager informed the Board that the current cost to replace the transformer at Gosberton Fen Pumping Station, which also supplies power to Dowsby Fen Pumping Station, is almost £70,000. However, this price is expected to rise in the very near future. The Operations Manager therefore recommended that the Board purchase a new transformer, noting that it is not currently within any budget, but that other funding sources are being explored. The Operations Manager further expanded that the Board are currently having five catchment studies undertaken, one of which is Dowsby Fen and Gosberton Fen that has already been completed. The plan is to take forward Dowsby Fen and Gosberton Fen in further appraisals to make an ask for £80,000 in addition to a 60% optimism bias in addition to the Board's cost, this totalling £143,000. The Grant in Aid Manager is confident that 75% of this can be achieved (excluding the 60% optimism bias), therefore equating to £63,750 of grant funding.

The Operations Manager has also confirmed that it would not be classed as retrospective funding if the transformer was to be purchased now, as the business case is being prepared for this financial year.

Mr V Barker gave some history, noting that the pumps were installed in the mid 60's, the substation was not built until 1969 and commissioned in the early 70's. The electricity supply came along the banks and a transformer was required in order to do the job, however, that was some time ago now and so Mr V Barker questioned whether it could be requested the National Grid provide a supply across the road from Dowsby substation to Dowsby Pumping Station and the same at Gosberton. Mr V Barker also added that there are three pumps in Gosberton Pumping Station and that it is very rare that they all run and so questioned if a smaller supply would be adequate.

The Operations Manager responded that he did investigate the option of a direct connection and their high-level estimate was in the region on £140,000 but the Operations Manager believed if a more detailed quote was carried out it would be closer to £200,000.

The Operations Manager also highlighted the little cost that has been associated with the current transformer in its last 57 years of service. The Operations Manager added that the Board need to be satisfied that the transformer is the responsibility of the Board before the business case for funding is submitted.

Mr V Barker felt that if the transformer is the responsibility of the Board, then we should be able to negotiate lower electricity charges. The Operations Manager confirmed that this has already been investigated but noted that a new transformer should be more efficient.

Cllr R Austin left the meeting.

The Operations Manager added that he is going to question the £3,500 element of the civils work to excavate the cable trench for new cabling, excavate joint hole and re-instating once works are complete and whether it is the Board's cost or network provider's cost.

The Chairperson was of the opinion that a new transformer should be ordered. Mr P Holmes agreed, noting that it is something that is needed. Cllr T Ashton agreed, adding that the Board now know it is on borrowed time. Cllr S Walsh added that if the transformer failed and caused damage or injury etc. then the Board could be at risk of prosecution because there was an awareness of the risk and therefore agreed that the Board should act.

Mr M Brookes questioned whether a refurbished unit had been looked into, noting that a larger refurbished unit may be adequate as it would be running at less capacity? The Operations Manager noted that his recommendation is based on the recommendations given to him by the industry experts who advise that they should only be run at 75% load, which is why the Operations Manager feels the 800kva would be most suitable. The Operations Manager noted that he has not looked into a refurbished unit but added that it wouldn't have the efficiency, or longevity, of a new unit.

Mr C Wray questioned at what point the Board is metered – after or before the transformer? Noting that it would be cheaper to be metered on the 11kv. Mr J Fowler added that he believes the Board should be metered on the high voltage and that there should be a reduction on the standing charge.

The Finance Manager suggested that the responsibilities and liabilities of the Board and National Grid be confirmed through legal documents, buy the transformer (800kva) and apply for the grant funding. All AGREED.

Mr M Rollinson noted the installation time of 2-3 days, and that consideration should be given as to what time of year it should be carried out. It was noted that there is a lead time of 10 -12 weeks.

The Operations Manager referred to the budget costs for transformer replacements included within the agenda (discounting Black Hole Drove as it was replaced in 2010 through the insurance following a lightning strike), the Operations Manager of the opinion that they all require replacing as soon as possible.

Mr C Wray questioned whether a temperature monitor could be affixed to the transformer to monitor the health of the transformer and give an indication if the temperature was rising and about to fail? The Operations Manager noted this may be an option for the short term.

Mr M Leggott questioned with the Grant in Aid Funding if the EA are aware of the possible costs for these other transformers? The Operations Manager confirmed that they are aware.

Mr P Holmes questioned whether any consideration has been given to the transformers being installed externally so that if it did explode, it would minimise damage to the pumping station. The Operations Manager confirmed that it is intended to be installed externally at Wyberton but can ask the question about the others also.

2064 Reports on the following: - Agenda Item 12

(a) Monthly Accounts: (June 2022 – October 2022)

The Board's monthly accounts, inclusive of June 2022 - October 2022, were circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(b) Monthly Accounts: Woldmarsh (June 2022 - September 2022)

The Board's monthly Woldmarsh invoices, inclusive of June 2022 - September 2022, were circulated.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(c) Schedule of Consents (June 2022 - October 2022)

The Chief Executive presented the Schedule of Consents, consisting of June 2022 - October 2022, copies of which had been circulated. Viking Link consents being in red.

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

(d) Rainfall

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

The Board RESOLVED that this report be noted.

2065 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 13

(a) Drainage and maintenance issues – land south of the Risegate Eau, Gosberton Fen

Mr V Barker noted that he purposely hadn't brought this up as matters arising, in the hope that the Operations Manager would provide an update. He continued that it has rained today, and the water is hanging back and so would really appreciate some drain maintenance, noting it has not been done for 44 years.

The Operations Manager responded that, as previously discussed with Mr V Barker, there is scope to remove some of the high spots, which is still the plan, but will not be done until after the cutting season and so the earliest the Board will be on site is January 2023. The Board will also consider if there is any benefit of increasing the channel width.

Mr V Barker expressed his thanks.

(b) Chief Executive Officer Succession Planning

The Finance Manager and Operations Manager left the meeting.

It was confirmed that the Chief Executive Officer intends to retire on the 3rd August 2023. The Executive Committee have discussed the succession of this role in great detail and due to the performance of Daniel Withnall acting up during the recent circumstances, the Executive Committee would like to offer Daniel the position of Chief Executive upon Ian's retirement.

The Chairperson continued that although Daniel doesn't have an engineering background, he has worked on these skills and has noted that he would continue with his engineering education, discussions with the current team are also going to take place around bridging that gap. Further expressing his concern that there are other IDB's whose Chief Executive's will be approaching retirement in the near future and that they could approach Daniel.

The Chairperson added that he would like to offer Daniel the role now and confirmed that the current Chief Executive, Ian Warsap, is in favour of Daniel succeeding his position.

Cllr S Walsh noted that if the Board were to advertise, anybody can write a good CV, but it hard to know the actual person from that. Whereas, with Daniel, the Board already know the person and know he would be suitable for the role. Therefore, agreeing with the Chairperson, that Daniel should be offered the role.

Cllr T Ashton agreed, noting that IDB's are unique and so having somebody that already understands how the Board works is invaluable. Also acknowledging that competition for good senior officers in IDBs is going to be intense. Referring to Daniel's lack of engineering background, Cllr T Ashton added that you do not need everything within the Chief Executive role, as long as there is a strong team around them.

Cllr M Cooper also noted Daniel's age and that, hopefully, would have a long period as Chief Executive to take the Board forward.

Mr J Fowler added that he believes in the benefit of continuity and so supported the suggestion of Daniel being offered the role of Chief Executive and, on the same note, thanking Mr V Barker for his continued commitment to the Board after sharing the history about the pumping stations from the 60's.

The Chief Executive added that Daniel is continually trying to develop his career, noting that he has found a health and safety course he would like to do. The Chief Executive further added that as this concept has been developed it is emerging that a possible project manager, working on obtaining grant in aid funding work, would be beneficial and so both the Finance Manager and Operations Manager can see career paths going forward. The Chief Executive confirmed that he recommends that Daniel be offered the role of Chief Executive.

The Chairperson also added that the Chief Executive may continue working on the South Lincs Reservoir past his retirement.

The Chairperson added that he will be retiring in 2024 and that himself and the Chief Executive will have a joint retirement inspection of the Board's area.

Mr P Holmes added that he supports Daniel being offered the role, adding that Ian will be a hard act to follow, noting all the positive work he has achieved and bringing the Board to the forefront of IDBs nationally.

The Chief Executive further noted about Daniel's role within the Royal Air Force Air Cadets and that he is very proud of everything he does and that this will be his next challenge.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:07.