BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee

held at the offices of the Board on 13th December 2022 at 2pm

Members

Chairperson - * Mr K C Casswell

* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr M Brookes
* Mr P Holmes

* Mr M Rollinson

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)

Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)

2066 Recording the Meeting - Agenda Item 1

Committee members were informed that the meeting would be recorded.

2067 Apologies for absence - Agenda Item 2

There were no apologies of absence.

2068 <u>Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3</u>

There were no declarations of interest.

2069 Minutes of the Meeting - Agenda Item 4

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2070 Confidential Minutes of the Meeting - Agenda Item 5

Confidential Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th September 2022, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED that they should be signed as a true record.

2071 Matters Arising - Agenda Item 6

(a) 10 Year Plant Replacement Budget - New JCB 130 - Minute 2022(f)

It was noted that the delivery of the new JCB 130 is now anticipated in midlate January 2023.

(b) Request for payment of compensation for grass by a Board Member and Ratepayer – Minute 2022(g)

It was confirmed that the compensation has been paid to the occupier (ratepayer) of the land and not the landowner (Board Member) that initially requested it.

(c) Period 05 Management Accounts - Minute 2023

The Finance Manager reminded the committee of the excessive surpluses in the wages oncost account and that the changes have now been made from 270% to 260% and retrospectively applied for the year.

(d) Insurance arrangements – Minute 2026

It was noted that the additional Environmental Impairment Insurance required by the Environment Agency (EA) for the Natural Flood Management work has now been placed with the NFU.

(e) Plant – Mitsubishi L200 Trucks Replacement – Minute 2028(3)(a)

The committee were updated that the order for the four new Toyota trucks has been placed, with expected delivery in April / May 2023. It was confirmed that the price has been locked in, it is only the trade-in value of the Mitsubishi's that is not confirmed until the time.

(f) Plant - Tipper - Minute 2028(3)(a)

The committee were updated that the new Tipper has been collected and is in use.

(g) Witham 4th IDB / Lower Witham Update – Minute 2028(4)

It was noted that at a recent meeting of the Board of Witham 4th IDB an interest was expressed in the potential sharing of services between their Board and the Witham and Humber IDB's.

(h) Murder at Chain Bridge Pumping Station

The Finance Manager noted that he didn't attend the national ADA AGM on 9th November 2022 as he was required in court regarding the murder at Chain Bridge Pumping Station.

(i) National ADA AGM & Conference – Minute 2028(8)

The Chairperson noted that he attended the National ADA AGM and Conference, where discussion took place around the impact on councils by increasing the IDB rate, it becoming apparent that only a few councils in the country experience the imbalance of effect experienced in the Board's catchment councils.

(j) Finance Assistant – Alex Emms – Minute 2022(i)

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 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

(k) Pay Award 2023/24 - Minute 2024(a)

The Finance Manager explained to the committee that the ADA Pay & Conditions Committee negotiated the following Pay Award for a two-year deal, however, it was rejected by the Union by 85% with a 75% turnout.

Using The Office for National Statistics Earning 01 Average Weekly Earnings – Total Pay, Great Britain (Seasonally Adjusted)

Provisional July Figure, published in September, for the public sector, 12-month average (August of the previous year to July of the current year) of the Single Month Changes (KAC8), % change year on year (2.1%)

In addition, for 2023/24 an un-consolidated payment of £1,500 will be paid in addition to the salary in monthly instalments.

Following this rejection, the employers have since met again to discuss a revised offer, noting that there was no further input or proposition from the Union. The revised offer is as follows, for one year:

Using The Office for National Statistics Earning 01 Average Weekly Earnings – Total Pay, Great Britain (Seasonally Adjusted)

Provisional July Figure, published in September, for the public sector, 12-month average (August of the previous year to July of the current year) of the Single Month Changes (KAC8), % change year on year (2.1%)

In addition, for 2023/24 an un-consolidated payment of £1,800 will be paid in addition to the salary in two equal payments of £900 in April 2023 and September 2023.

This offer has been shared with the Union and a response is expected from them this week, following the Finance Manager having to chase acknowledgement of them receiving the revised offer.

The Chairperson also noted that Lindsey Marsh IDB who were previously involved with the joint ADA Pay & Conditions Committee negotiations, but who left the committee due to what they believed to be a too large increase in 2021/22 (4.1%), have offered a Pay Award for 2023/24 for their employees of 5.5% consolidated and an additional one-off payment of £1,000 in December 2022. It also being noted that the union representatives are employees of Lindsey Marsh IDB.

The Finance Manager added that there are a greater number of non-union members than union members within the Board's involved in the ADA Pay & Conditions committee negotiations (it is not known who, and the Board cannot ask):

- Black Sluice IDB: 10 of 25 employees
- Witham 4th IDB: 17 of 25 employees
- Witham & Humber IDB: 10 of 45 employees across all Board's

It was therefore felt it would be beneficial to inform all employees of the new revised offer and so it has been circulated amongst all employees and to continue this going forward.

It was also added that South Holland IDB didn't attend the employers meeting regarding the revised offer and no response has been received from them regarding it. Mr P Holmes noted that he has been in correspondence with South Holland IDB regarding it, who felt that it was worded in a 'non-advisory' way. The Finance Manager noted that it is up to each Board within the ADA Pay & Conditions Committee as to whether they approve it, however, if one Board doesn't, it weakens the power of joint negotiation going forward.

The Chairperson noted that he expects the formula percentage (Provisional July Figure, published in September, for the public sector, 12-month average (August of the previous year to July of the current year) of the Single Month Changes (KAC8), % change year on year) to be a lot more next year as it reflects the last twelve months.

Mr J Fowler noted that one-off payments have been seen quite commonly across many sectors and that, with the unconsolidated payment, it equates to 8.13% on a c£30,000 salary. The Finance Manager added that most of the Board's excavator operators are on Spine Point 15, which equates to an increase of 9.07%.

(I) GIS & Environmental Technician (Christopher Duku) - Minute 2024(a)

The committee were informed that the GIS & Environmental Technician, Christopher Duku, is leaving employment with the Board, his final day of employment will be 22nd December 2022. It was confirmed that he is leaving due to lifestyle changes and he is not staying within the industry. The job role is currently being reviewed and planned to be advertised over Christmas.

2072 Period 08 Management Accounts - Agenda Item 7

The Finance Manager noted that the Period 08 Management Accounts look reasonable as they have not had the huge impact of electricity price increases yet.

Pumping Station Maintenance

The Board is one month into a new electricity contract, and so estimates have been calculated, the amount included for electricity was around £5,000 under based on doubling of the costs based on pump hours. With the additional £5,000 to be added to Pumping Station Maintenance (PSM) there is not a lot spare.

Drain Maintenance

The Finance Manager noted the error in plant recharge rates, having used the white diesel rates as opposed to the red diesel rates, this has now been rectified and retrospectively applied.

This has reduced the summer cutting figure by £29,000, which leaves Drain Maintenance just underspent, however, due to the delay in the South Kesteven work and some of the Environment Agency work, bushing has not yet started.

Investments

The Finance Manager noted that the investments have taken a slight upturn.

Cash accounts

Mr J Fowler referred to the NatWest Reserve Account @ 0.1% and the NatWest 35 Day Notice Account @ 0.6%, noting that he has an account that is freely accessible at 2%, suggesting that there may be better accounts for the Board to use. The Finance Manager noted that the account at 0.6% seems to be tracking with the Bank of England rate, so it is hoped there will be an increase on that shortly. It was added that the Monmouthshire BS also changes with the change in interest rates.

The Finance Manager noted that he can look at other options, welcoming any suggestions.

2073 Indicative report for the 2023/24 Budget & Ten-Year Estimates - Agenda Item 8

The Finance Manager explained that he was aiming to have all the detail for this meeting, but there has been a lot of further detailed work that needed doing. Work has been completed to identify where the Board can get to, whilst maintaining works and trying to keep the rate down. Following this work, a rate increase of 9.27% has been identified.

(a) 2023//24 budget and 10-year estimates

Electricity

The Finance Manager explained that there has been £400,000 included in the budget based on an estimated use of £369,815 (based on a dry year on 2021/22 consumption) as detailed within the spreadsheet shown on page 22 of the agenda.

The Finance Manager referred to page 22, showing a breakdown of electricity cost estimates for a dry year, average year and wet year, explaining that the figures presented above the mid-way break line are the smaller non-half-hourly (actual rates are known), the figures presented below the mid-way break line are for the half hourly metered (bigger pumping stations), but the actual rates are only yet known for Sempringham and so this rate increase has been applied to them all until the others are received.

The Finance Manger outlined the key figures from the spreadsheet, based on the following:

- 1. Last financial year 2021/22 as a dry year,
- 2. Consumption average of the last 6 years
- 3. Financial year 2019/20 as a very wet year

	Dry Previous					
	Rates Actual	Dry	Average	Wet		
Estimated Cost	£ 152,273	£ 369,815	£ 775,252	£ 1,551,313		
Increase		£ 217,542	£ 622,979	£1,399,040		
% Increase		143%	409%	919%		

The Finance Manager noted to the committee that the estimated reserves for 2023/24 is £1,022,036, which wouldn't cover the estimated amount required if it was a wet year (£1,551,313).

The Chairperson felt it an impossible thing to set a budget for. He noted that he has raised the issue at ADA and that the response he got was that the Environment Agency would help where they could, and that Defra said there is no funding available to help. The Finance Manager has also since attended another ADA meeting about it, whereby the Finance Manager expressed that it could bankrupt the Board in a year, noting that a short-term solution suggested was having year off from paying the EA Precept (£276,552), however the Finance Manager noted his concern around the 'trade-off' this may involve and the possible cuts to maintenance.

Cllr P Bedford noted that Lindsey Marsh IDB Board have just approved a 30% increase to the rate. It has been shared with East Lindsey District Council, who have not yet responded. Lindsey Marsh IDB have also produced a map identifying high risk flood areas that would be at risk if they cannot afford to pump, which has also been sent to Defra.

The Chairperson felt that if the Board put the rate up by 30%, that it is 'crying wolf' before it has happened.

Mr P Holmes questioned if it would be possible for the rate to be increased by 30% and then rebated back if it was a dry year and not needed?

The Finance Manager noted that it would net each other off, it would be rebated back at the end of one year and then requested again at the beginning of the next.

The Chairperson felt that by setting a manageable rate, it enables the Board to be able to ask partners for help if needed and request emergency financial assistance through the Bellwin scheme.

Mr M Rollinson expressed that we will get a wet year at some point and that the Board needs enough money in the reserve to cover it. Further adding that the price of electricity isn't going to come down to previous rates, and so with £400,000 included in the budget and £1,022,036 in reserves, the Board would just about be able to cover that one wet year, but the following year, with reserves of £669,161 and £400,000 in the budget, the Board would not be able to cover the cost of a wet period and would be bankrupt.

Mr P Holmes felt that the Board needs £2,000,000 in the reserves.

The Chairperson questioned how much is being saved by implementing the reduced pumping regime? The Chief Executive noted that levels have now reached land grip levels and so have started to receive phone calls. Mr P Holmes noted that it is a saving (c£250 per pumping station) but is nothing compared to what the Board need.

The Finance Manager advised that a 30% increase for the next three years would provide a reserve of £2,100,000. A 30% increase for just one year would increase the reserve from £669,161 to £1,151,000.

Mr P Holmes felt that this highlighted the need to increase by 30%. Further raising the concern that if there is a wet year which uses all the reserves, it is then going to take years and years to build the reserves back up.

The Chairperson questioned Cllr P Bedford whether he thinks the council will be able to see why such a big increase is necessary, to which Cllr P Bedford responded that they will be able to understand why it is needed.

Mr P Holmes further noted that the reserve % of expenditure is now irrelevant, the Board need to aim for a raw figure.

Mr P Holmes and Mr J Fowler felt there was no other choice.

The Chief Executive noted that factual rainfall data from the past 6 years has been used, but it could be worse than that and rain more, further adding that using tractors to run pumping stations is no way to run an IDB, it should only be a last resort.

Mr M Rollinson referred to the estimated consumption of an average year, £775,252, and questioned what increase would be required in the rate, if there was £775,252 included within the budget? It was confirmed that a 27.96% increase would be required for 2023/24.

It was also noted about the cost of standing and distribution charges before any electricity is even used (c£5,000 increase for the non-half-hourly).

Mr M Brookes felt the Board can justify the increase with including the average and it is based on facts. Mr P Holmes noted that being able to see this by kWh has helped to be able to work this out and justify the position of the Board.

The impact of a 27.96% increase on the council's special levy payments were outlined as below:

	2022/23	2023/24
Boston Borough Council	£885,734	£1,132,525
South Holland District Council	£166,133.38	£212,422.92
North Kesteven District Council	£75,250.35	£96,217.26
South Kesteven District Council	£63,232.70	£80,851.15

All AGREED to inform the four councils with the Board's catchment that the Board are thinking of increasing the rate by 27.96%.

It was felt that information reviewed today also needs to be shared with the councils for them to be able to see why the increase is required (2023/24 budget and 10-year estimates and report, electricity contract renewal estimate spreadsheet, kWh hours used over the past 6 years).

Mr M Rollinson questioned out of the last six years, how many have been wet, dry or average? It was confirmed there has been two 'wet' years and four 'dry', with the two wet years being consecutive.

Mr P Holmes noted the greater impact of expenditure during a wet year, in comparison to the impact of saving in a dry year.

The committee felt that all of this should be explained to the councils, as opposed to simply just being told, noting how the Board has always been fair and transparent in the past.

The Chairperson added that the joint councils have written to the government, and so they are aware of the circumstances ahead.

Mr J Fowler added that he liked the concept of a map outlining the areas at risk of flooding. The Chief Executive noted that there is a pumping station in every sub catchment and so it could potentially be any sub catchment if the pumps were turned off.

The Chairperson noted that the Board has tried to reduce the pumping required, but it is now at a level where concern is growing from villages and landowners.

Mr M Rollinson felt it would be beneficial to produce a contingency plan around what the Board are going to do if we are short on budget.

It was noted that the Board don't really want to have to make maintenance cutbacks and that it wouldn't make that much of a saving to make a significant difference.

Mr P Holmes questioned what impact a 15% increase in 2024/25 would have following the 27.96% in 2023/24, the Finance Manager displayed the below:

Income	Actual	Budget	Forecast @ P6	Budget / Estimates									
	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33
Rates and Levies	2,204,498	2,328,165	2,326,583	2,979,031	3,425,971	3,769,248	3,957,880	4,155,009	4,362,335	4,579,857	4,809,274	5,050,588	5,303,797
Interest & Investment Income	11,833	15,662	17,406	18,276	19,190	20,150	21,157	22,215	23,326	24,492	25,717	27,002	28,353
Grants/Local Levy	293,500	772,000	267,000	265,000	80,000	1,579,000	828,000	435,000					
Contribution Development Fund	5,000	5,000	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other Income	37,224	23,066	164,584	23,066	23,527	23,998	24,478	24,967	25,467	25,976	26,496	27,025	27,566
Rechargeable Income	822,534	570,608	640,466	470,608	276,020	281,541	287,171	292,915	298,773	304,749	310,844	317,060	323,402
Solar Panel Income	16,466	18,583	19,726	18,583	18,955	19,334	19,720	20,115	20,517	20,927	21,346	21,773	22,208
TOTAL INCOME	3,391,055	3,733,084	3,450,765	3,779,564	3,848,663	5,698,270	5,143,407	4,955,221	4,735,418	4,961,001	5,198,676	5,448,449	5,710,326

Expenditure	Actual	Budget	Forecast @ P6	Budget / Estimates									
	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33
Board Funded Schemes	122,298	290,000	137,391	249,000	271,000	410,000	427,000	363,000	327,000	314,000	317,000	324,925	393,000
FDGiA/Local Levy Funded Schemes	475,024	1,128,295	594,963	428,139	80,000	1,579,000	828,000	435,000					
Pumping Station Maintenance	259,208	213,818	201,714	214,080	224,784	236,023	247,824	260,216	273,226	286,888	301,232	316,294	332,108
Electricity	122,810	168,200	217,244	775,252	814,015	854,715	897,451	942,324	989,440	1,038,912	1,090,857	1,145,400	1,202,670
Insurance	66,924	66,924	76,095	85,260	89,523	93,999	98,699	103,634	108,816	114,257	119,969	125,968	132,266
Drain Maintenance	763,367	876,167	902,534	944,845	992,087	1,041,692	1,093,776	1,148,465	1,205,888	1,266,183	1,329,492	1,395,966	1,465,765
Environmental Works	19,578	20,000	20,000	21,000	22,050	23,153	24,310	25,526	26,802	28,142	29,549	31,027	32,578
Administration & Establishment	578,579	608,714	611,368	637,506	669,381	702,850	737,993	774,893	813,637	854,319	897,035	941,887	988,981
EA Precept	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	276,552	283,466	290,552	297,816	305,262	312,893
Rechargeble Expenditure	743,006	530,798	582,716	437,775	256,763	261,898	267,136	272,479	277,929	283,487	289,157	294,940	300,839
Solar Panel Expenditure	3,414	2,534	3,084	3,238	3,400	3,570	3,749	3,936	4,133	4,339	4,556	4,784	5,024
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,430,760	4,182,002	3,623,660	4,072,647	3,699,555	5,483,453	4,902,491	4,606,023	4,310,336	4,481,079	4,676,664	4,886,452	5,166,124
OPENING BALANCE	1,234,636	1,194,931	1,194,931	1,022,036	728,953	878,061	1,092,879	1,333,795	1,682,992	2,108,074	2,587,996	3,110,008	3,672,004
Introduced from Plant Reserve													
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) IN YEAR	(39,705)	(448,918)	(172,895)	(293,083)	149,108	214,817	240,916	349,198	425,081	479,922	522,012	561,997	544,202
CLOSING BALANCE	1,194,931	746,013	1,022,036	728,953	878,061	1,092,879	1,333,795	1,682,992	2,108,074	2,587,996	3,110,008	3,672,004	4,216,206
RATE	13.16	13.70	13.70	17.53	20.16	22.18	23.29	24.45	25.67	26.95	28.30	29.72	31.21
Increase in Rates		4.10%	4.10%	27.96%	15.00%	10.02%	5.00%	4.98%	4.99%	4.99%	5.01%	5.02%	5.01%

The Chairperson added that the Board's job is to get rid of water and that is where the huge expenditure now is.

It was confirmed that the rate needs to be agreed at the Board on 14th February 2023, but it was felt that the councils should be contacted as soon as possible.

The Finance Manager next referred to other cost pressures as follows:

Pay Award

As discussed at Minute 2071(k), the Pay Award for 2023/24 has not yet been agreed, but the current offer being negotiated will not make a huge amount of difference.

<u>Insurance</u>

This is a 41.17% increase, but pumping stations are now fully covered again.

IT Support

It was noted that the 11.04% increase includes the support of a laptop for the Grant in Aid Manager.

Mobile Phone Contract

It was noted that the new contract is only 3.8% more than the 2019 contract.

Gas Oil

It was noted that the gas oil rate has decreased by 18p over the last four weeks.

The Chairperson questioned whether the tanks are being kept full as the price drops? The Finance Manager noted that they will have been, due to the cutting season, but will be ordering less frequently now. It was noted that it would have to be investigated to see if ordering less quantity would affect the rate.

Cllr P Bedford questioned if the Board are suffering from any fuel losses i.e., theft? It was confirmed that the Board has not experienced this recently.

Board's bungalow

The Chief Executive and Operations Manager went to visit the tenants of the Board's bungalow last week. One of the tenants is a previous fulltime employee of the Board, who is still employed to maintain Cooks Lock and Chain Bridge Pumping Station. It is expected that he will retire from this in the new year, due to his age.

The tenants have also requested a new kitchen. There is already £3,000 within the budget for next year and so the Chief Executive suggested that another £3,000 is added to give a maximum of £6,000 for the kitchen due to how well the tenants have looked after the property and how little the Board have spent on it over the years. It was AGREED to get quotes up to £6,000.

The committee were also of the general opinion that whenever the tenants no longer continue to rent the bungalow, it should be sold.

(b) 10 Year Plant Replacement Budget

The Chief Executive referred to the replacement of the Twiga SPV2 (2015) due for replacement in 2023/24 at a replacement cost of £258,259.

The Chief Executive explained that the Operations Manager has been exploring the market for alternative replacements and has found a potentially suitable machine made by Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd (ACE) based in Holland, called the Hooby. Photos and specification were displayed on screen, it being added that there is not yet one of these machines in the UK.

This machine has a JCB orientated engine and adapted Fastrac chassis at a starting price of £221,000, and with the additions the Operations Manager deems required, is a price of £254,215 and so is within budget.

The Chief Executive felt it is of interest and worth exploring, suggesting that the Operations Manager and Pump Engineer (to view other things) travel to Holland for the day to learn more.

The Chairperson agreed it should be looked into.

Mr P Holmes noted that his only concern is around the support / backup of it, noting that all machines will break down at some point, but it is ensuring that there is an equipped team able to deal with it.

2074 To receive an update on senior officer succession - Agenda Item 9

The Chief Executive explained an exercise being carried out in which all employees (excluding workforce operatives) job roles have been displayed on the office wall on coloured post-it notes. Photos were displayed on screen. Following the establishment of current roles, they have now been amended in relation to how the roles will be re-defined going forward following the retirement of the current Chief Executive. This has helped establish a new specification for the GIS role (to be advertised over the Christmas period) and has also brought to light a need for the introduction of a new project manager.

The Chief Executive noted that he is keen, if budgets allow, to implement the newly define roles in advance of his retirement.

It was confirmed that employees have been involved with this exercise, which Mr P Holmes noted it is good to get everybody involved.

2075 Any Other Business - Agenda Item 10

(a) Update on the South Lincs Reservoir

The Chief Executive gave an update on the South Lincs Reservoir (SLR) as follows.

Referring to the Reservoir and landscape system Summary Report October 2022 (published on Anglian Water's website):

'Recommendations:

- 1. Develop and assess feasibility and benefits of open water transfers
 - a. Develop and cost open water transfers which meet the needs of emergency draw-down, annual draw-down tests and navigation. The transfers and emergency draw down will be the governing conditions for the sizing and assessment of open water transfers. Navigation benefits from the open water transfers will need to be assessed.

- b. Evaluate the potential for flood management, irrigation / conjunctive use and environmental benefits of open water transfers. The scope of these activities will have implications for the operation and hence design of the reservoirs.
- c. Quantify amenity benefits arising from the transfers and associated interventions such as country parks and marinas.
- d. Evaluate all costs and benefits of alternative open water transfer options in comparison with each other and with a baseline piped water option.
- 3. Develop an integrated water management strategy for the relevant areas
 - a. Scope an integrated water management modelling strategy to complement the Future Fens Integrated Adaptation Strategy. Build on analysis of modelling studies and assessments undertaken to date, to include an evaluation of the effect of alternative landscape restoration strategies on the availability and quality of water for farm irrigation, carbon offsetting and biodiversity gain.
 - b. An assessment of the volumetric scale of flood management, conjunctive use and environmental water transfers should be made. The potential for Internal Drainage Boards to pump to the reservoirs should be assessed. The potential of agricultural enhancements from irrigation and protected cropping will need to be made.
 - c. The benefits derived from use of the open water channels for flood management, conjunctive use, social and environmental benefits should be assessed.'

The Chief Executive noted to the committee that he genuinely believes Matt Pluke (Anglian Water) believes in the benefits of open water transfer, as his report, of bits highlighted above, reflects. There will be an update in January 2023 as to whether the possibility of open water transfer is progressing forward.

The Chief Executive next referred to the potential route he has suggested, noting that it mirrors the route that the South Forty Foot Drain did when it was first built in 1805.

Mr P Holmes questioned when the preferred reservoir site will be confirmed as the site to definitely be used? The Chief Executive noted that it will be a number of years.

The Chief Executive felt that, as an IDB, the open water transfer route is more important than the reservoir itself.

It was also noted that Daniel Johns (WRE) now has the support of the WRE Board to continue his work as South Lincs Water Partnership Chairperson. It is still unknown whether the Board & HR Advisor's time for secretarial duties to the SLWP will continue to be funded.

The Chief Executive further detailed that there is a proposed piped link between the River Trent and River Witham, it is then about whether Anglian Water decide to move the water to the reservoir by pipe or open water transfer, with open water transfer having endless benefits. The Chief Executive noted that he is going to use the Board's drone to capture his proposed open water transfer route with a view to sharing it with the Board in February. The Chairperson and Chief Executive added that it is the long-term aim of the Board to be the controllers of this water through the system, the Chief Executive noting that it would not be successful if there were multiple organisations trying to manage the water levels.

(b) Training Day Lunch – 22nd December 2022

The Chief Executive confirmed there will be 30 in attendance at the training day lunch on 22nd December at Ellenders, Boston United.

2076 To review senior staff salaries and current acting up allowances - Agenda Item 11

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 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:49.