



Ouse & Humber Drainage Board

MINUTES OF FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2023 24 INNOVATION DRIVE, HU15 2FW.

PRESENT

Elected

Mr G Baxter

Mr C Mowforth

Mr R Henley

Mr R Nicholls

Appointed

Cllr K West

Cllr H Robert

Cllr N Marwood

Mr B Blackledge

Cllr L Bayram

Mr I Screeton

Cllr V Aitken

APOLOGIES

Elected

Mr T Featherby

Mr J Scutt

Mr J Hick

Mr J Wright

Mr B Maclean

Mr J Atkinson

Appointed

Cllr N Wilkinson

Mr J Traill

Cllr P West

ABSENCES

Elected

Mr J Sweeting

Appointed

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer

Mr R Towse – Director of Operation

Ms A Cowen – Director of Policy & Finance

Miss L Smith – Executive Assistant

Members of Public

Mr T Screeton (Observing)

Andrew McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board
24 Innovation Drive
Newport
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU15 2FW

01430 430237
info@yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk
yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk
[@idbyorkshire](https://twitter.com/idbyorkshire)

474. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- 474.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board, noting apologies from Mr Featherby, Mr Scutt, Mr Hick, Mr Wright, Mr Maclean, Mr Atkinson, Cllr Wilkinson, Mr Traill and Cllr P West.
- 474.2. There were brief introductions from Members and Officers for the benefit of new members and the public.

475. Declarations of Interest

- 475.1. Cllr Marwood declared an interest in Item 15.3 – industrial development at Howdendyke.
- 475.2. Mr Mowforth declared an interest in Item 15.5 – consultation on large-scale solar farm in East Yorkshire.

476. Additional Agenda Items

- 476.1. None.

477. Health & Safety

- 477.1. The CEO advised that the winter training programme was ongoing.
- 477.2. No Health and Safety incidents were reported.

478. Natural Environment

- 478.1. Cllr Roberts gave an overview as to the requirements of the Biodiversity Action Plan [BAP] advising that ADA have requested that Boards produce their own BAP.
- 478.2. Working on behalf of the Consortium, he added that he had created and produced a geographical BAP which focuses on the biodiversity within the drainage system and neighbouring wildlife sites. This information will support in raising awareness as to how Board operations affect sites and species.
- 478.3. Mr Blackledge queried how operatives will be aware of the biodiversity and biosecurity and how to operate within regulations.
- 478.4. Cllr Roberts confirmed that training sessions will be provided to the operatives and contractors who will be required to report back anything that is needed to be aware of, which will then be mapped on the GIS system, providing a clear picture on what to be aware of in each area.

479. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

- 479.1. The Chair drew attention to the minutes from the previous meeting at Appendix A
- 479.2. It was PROPOSED by MR MOWFORTH and SECONDED by MR BAXTER and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of the previous meeting.

480. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

- 480.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes from the Executive Committee for noting.
- 480.2. Cllr Roberts highlighted that his name required adding to the attendance list. **Action BDBSec**

481. Matters Arising

- 481.1. Mr Henley queried if the ADA pay award agreement in relation to staff salaries had been resolved, the CEO confirmed this was still ongoing.

482. Minutes of the Joint Consortium Committee

- 482.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes from the Joint Consortium Committee at Appendix C.
- 482.2. The CEO confirmed the Consortium Committee agreed on a shared services budget, which forms part of the Budget for approval by the Board and added that an amendment is to be made to the way the budget is represented, namely a cost centre in shared services where it makes sense to procure goods and services as a consortium.

483. Financial Position

- 483.1. The Chair drew attention to the current financial charts and tables at Appendix D which showed a 3% overspend.
- 483.2. The CEO referred to the Board's income and noted that more funds than expected were being received in relation to PSCAs. Operational staff had also been carrying out works on behalf of the EA to provide cover due to industrial action.
- 483.3. Mr Mowforth asked if the rates charged in relation to PCSA agreements increased annually in respect of inflation and fuel prices, to which the DO confirmed that a proposal is made annually for consideration.
- 483.4. The CEO commented that all PCSA work funds are invested back into the organisation.

484. Budget & Rate Setting

- 484.1. Referring to the recent Executive Committee meeting, the CEO notified Members that the recommendation for the budget and rate had been passed by majority, however there had been some concerns raised as were included in the minutes.
- 484.2. For the benefit of new Members, the CEO explained the formal procedure of the setting of the budget and the rate, special levy demands and agricultural rates.
- 484.3. Several changes of use of land had been identified due to quarries and housing developments which had resulted in an increase to the special levy demand.
- 484.4. The CEO presented an electronic version of the budget and explained how the Consortium charges are built-in to contribute towards the Board's total income, which then must match the Board's expenditure.

- 484.5. In relation to reserves, as a small authority, the Board is not practically able to hold an overdraft, therefore a reserve must be held to assist with cashflow. Insufficient reserves would result in the Board being unable to pay staff or respond appropriately to emergencies.
- 484.6. The CEO confirmed the Board's policy position was to hold 75% of operational expenditure yet highlighted that with increased costs the proposed budget would reduce these reserves to 60%.
- 484.7. The CEO referred to the inflationary staff pay increase, where a 2.1% increase along with a £1,500 non-consolidated payment, was rejected by 83% of the workforce [of IDBs that are part of the joint bargaining arrangement]. The counter-offer made by employers was an increase of £300 to the non-consolidated payment however this had yet to be accepted by the employee side.
- 484.8. The CEO highlighted the Board's anticipated electricity costs, the price of which over recent months had risen sharply by 400%. He advised that at present, the Board is receiving Government subsidies however from April, this will cease and there will be no further support. Although electricity prices are expected to drop, without government subsidy they are expected to remain around fourfold.
- 484.9. There was a discussion regarding gravity outfalls and how this could assist in the reduction of energy usage.
- 484.10. The Board discussed renewable energy, and the CEO cautioned that there were no such schemes to support with the capital costs, however rationalisation strategies were being investigated.
- 484.11. Cllr Aitken queried if communications had been held with the council to notify them of the increase in special levy, prior to the Board meeting being held. The CEO confirmed that they had been notified, via senior officer channels, and had been invited to consult regarding this, however there had been no further communication.
- 484.12. Mr Mowforth commented that the electricity increment was estimated, and asked whether in the event that the Board does not use the funds, would the Board be able to use the funds to place back into reserves? The CEO confirmed that this would be possible if there was a surplus.
- 484.13. Cllr Bayram asked what the impact on council tax bills was. The CEO advised that it is a very small amount; last time he calculated the total cost of the IDB levy on council taxpayers, it worked out at less than £2 per resident per year.
- 484.14. Cllr Aitken suggested that ratepayers receive a full explanation along with the rates bill as to the increase when sending out rate demands; she highlighted that whilst Board Members are aware of reasons behind the increase and are privy to in-depth financial information, ratepayers are not. **ACTION CEO.**
- 484.15. Members also highlighted that it should be made known that Ouse and Humber do not pay for the building solely, it is shared by 8 drainage boards, all of whom contribute financially.

484.16. It was PROPOSED by MR BAXTER and SECONDED by CLLR ROBERTS and RESOLVED BY MAJORITY that the Board approves an estimated budget of £2,946,265.

484.17. Mr Mowforth abstained.

484.18. It was PROPOSED by MR BAXTER and SECONDED by CLLR ROBERTS and RESOLVED BY MAJORITY that to meet the approved budget the Board set a rate of 20.5p£.

484.19. Mr Mowforth abstained.

485. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

485.1. The Chair drew attention to Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled at Appendix F.

485.2. It was PROPOSED by MR MARWOOD and SECONDED by MR MOWFORTH and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to the value of £865,036.74 (net) for the third financial quarter of 2022/23.

486. Internal Audit

486.1. The DO advised that the previous two audits had highlighted no areas for concern.

486.2. The Chair noted that there had been a policy request to meet the reserves as agreed in the policy by the Board.

487. Public Sector Agreements

487.1. The DO informed members that agreements with the EA in relation to works for flood bank maintenance on the North bank, Brough to Barmby Barrage, and South bank, Whitgift to twin bridges at Cowick, were expected to continue this financial year.

487.2. He added that operational staff are also completing works on Mill Beck, and the weed boat is operating in the Market Weighton canal up to the Foulness confluence.

488. Planning & Development

488.1. Planning Summary – Q3 (October – December 2022)

Notable Developments

488.2. The DO commented on the positive relationship with the planning team at ERYC who are assisting with conditions being implemented to support IDBs.

488.3. Cllr Aitken queried if the Board had any authority to enforce conditions prior to developments, to which the DO advised not. The Board could stop development, but the developer would have to actually breach the byelaws before enforcement action could be taken.

488.4. Referring to HOW-G, the large-scale residential development, the DO confirmed that the outline planning application had been submitted and a drainage design had been agreed in

principle with the developer. A holding objection had been placed with the LPA until planning conditions are agreed.

- 488.5. Preliminary discussions have recently been held with the EA and a developer regarding a proposed industrial development at Howdendyke, which are currently rejected by the Board on flood risk and maintenance grounds.
- 488.6. Planning application received for 'SEGL2' cable route to Drax – ongoing discussions with developer regarding design and consents required. Contact made with developer regarding investigatory works already underway. The DO was in ongoing discussions as to how these pipes would be laid through/over certain watercourses.
- 488.7. Scoping report consultation regarding large scale solar farm in East Yorkshire. Initial discussions held, to monitor development as more detail becomes available. At the moment there are no flood risk concerns.
- 488.8. The CEO highlighted the work on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), whereby there has been a recent consultation for Statutory Instruments to be implemented to form Sustainable Drainage Approval Bodies (SABs). He advised this this would essentially remove the function of managing surface water risk from new developments from the planning department, placing responsibility on local authority engineers, who would be able to prevent housing developments from progressing who do not have SUDS accounted for in advance. IDBs would be a statutory consultee in this regard.

Ongoing Planning and Enforcement Matters

- 488.9. The DO advised that there have been discussions held with developers regarding remediation work required following damage to a watercourse at Holme on Spalding Moor, however formal action is now required as there has been no effort to repair this damage.

489. Capital Programme

- 489.1. The CEO commented on the potential for some national funding for asset replacement, which might contribute towards Board pumping stations, but there were no firm details yet.

490. Maintenance Update

- 490.1. Mr Baxter asked if the Mecalac [new excavator] had been received. The DO advised that he had been assured that it would be in the UK by the end of the financial year.
- 490.2. The DO advised that the majority of the planned flailing operations were complete and that this had all been done 'in-house'.
- 490.3. He advised there were some small amounts of de-weeding still to complete around Gilberdyke and Broomfleet.
- 490.4. He advised that the new maintenance plans had worked well, with the operational staff using the new remote IT systems.

- 490.5. In relation to pumping stations, there are a couple of problems at Crabley with the second pump. This was originally believed to be beyond economic repair, as a quote to put in a new pump with new infrastructure was priced at £150k. The DO asked for a price to strip down and repair the pump, which was affordable and now in the process of being rebuilt.
- 490.6. The DO advised that Skelton and Seavy Carr were to be repaired also, however Members needed to be aware that they are both beyond their expected asset life and that breakdowns were becoming more regular.
- 490.7. He continued that the pumps at Howden Dyke [although operational] have not yet been commissioned as there is not enough water in the system to allow them to run for sufficient time.
- 490.8. The CEO advised that there is a meeting to be held with Yorkshire Water in relation to the pollution at Crabley Creek, where the storm-overflows pump into the drain. There is also a build-up of sewage in the watercourse-bed at Howden Drain.

491. Staff Matters

- 491.1. The DPF advised that there were currently 3 positions advertised, Operator, Mechanical Engineer, and Data Assistant.

492. Board Membership

- 492.1. The Board discussed co-option to the Board and invited Mr T Screeton to express an interest in becoming a co-opted member who was present at the meeting as an observer.
- 492.2. The Chair requested that Mr T Screeton leave the room and it was unanimously resolved to co-opt Mr T Screeton to the Board.
- 492.3. Mr Mowforth spoke in support of Mr T Screeton joining the Board which was followed by a positive discussion by other members.
- 492.4. Mr T Screeton returned and was offered a position on the Board. In accepting he was unanimously appointed a Co-opted member of the Ouse & Humber Drainage Board.
- 492.5. The CEO reported that the Board's first Chairman and longest-serving member, Mr Jeff Atkinson, was unable to continue in the role due to personal circumstances. The Board agreed that the CEO should make appropriate representations to Jeff, acknowledging his contribution over many, many years. **ACTION CEO.**

493. Date of Next Meeting (s)

- Monday 17th April 2023 at 9:30am – Executive Committee
- Monday 22nd May 2023 at 9.30am – Full Board
- Monday 24th July 2023 at 9:30am – Executive Committee
- Monday 16th October 2023 at 9:30am – Executive Committee
- Monday 6th November 2023 at 9:30am – Full Board
- Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 9:30am – Joint Consortium Committee

- Monday 8th January 2024 at 9:30am – Executive Committee
- Monday 5th February 2024 at 9:30am – Full Board

493.1. The Chair thanked Members and Officers for attending and closed the meeting.