



**Dempster**  
Internal Drainage Board

**MINUTES FROM THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
JANUARY 2023 AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE, HU15 2FW.**

**PRESENT**

**Elected**

Mr P Jacklin (C)      Mr M Johnson      Mr P Chantry      Mr J Cowling      Mr R Hall  
Mr J Frost

**APOLOGIES**

**Elected**

Mr D Walton      Mr M Backhouse      Mr J Phillipson

**Appointed**

Mr N Coultish

**ABSENT**

**Elected**

**Appointed**

Cllr L Sargeantson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Officers**

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer  
Mr R Towse – Director of Operations  
Ms A Cowen – Director of Policy & Finance  
Miss L Smith – Board Secretary

**Andrew McLachlan**  
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board  
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**1808. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies**

1808.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr D Walton, Mr M Backhouse, J Phillipson, and Mr N Coultish.

**1809. Declarations of Interest**

1809.1. None

**1810. Health and Safety**

1810.1. The DO confirmed there had been no incidents to report.

1810.2. The Chair notified Members that a safety rail had been installed on the ABP outfall at Dempster Clough by ABP.

**1811. Additional Agenda Items**

1811.1. None

**1812. Natural Environment**

1812.1. No concerns were raised.

**1813. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting**

1813.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes of the previous meeting at Appendix A.

1813.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr Frost and SECONDED by Mr J Cowling and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves these minutes as a true record.

**1814. Matters Arising**

1814.1. Mr Chantry queried if the balance from Natural England has been received to which the CEO confirmed reference to Thorne Moors would be made under the capital programme.

1814.2. The DPF referred to the previous minutes where the Boards savings had been discussed. The DPF informed Members that as interest rates are improving, there are no higher rates significantly better than the Boards current savings account and therefore funds will remain where they are.

1814.3. There had been an action to investigate a PWLB loan to install a third pump at Swang Drain, the CEO advised there may be some funds available through the asset replacement fund and he had agreed with the Chair to suspend this action until more was known.

**1815. Minutes of ADOC Consortium Meeting**

1815.1. The Chair drew attention to the minutes of the ADOC Consortium meeting.

1815.2. Mr Johnson queried the update on the carbon pipeline and the CEO confirmed there had been meetings held with the developer highlighting that the minimum requirement and technical specification has been set out with the pipe sitting 1.2m or more below hard bed level.

1815.3. The CEO added that in the consent issued in relation to the Carbon Pipeline, there would be a stipulation included to allow the Board to continue to maintain district watercourses without the need to request consent from the pipeline company to do so.

#### **1816. Budget & Rate Setting**

1816.1. The Chair drew attention to the budget setting report and the CEO explained that at present, it was predicted that the Board would end the financial year slightly under budget, however this was predicated on the weather and other factors.

1816.2. The Chair queried the electricity charges to which the DO responded that standing charges are not yet set in stone. Has been liaising with Woldmarsh, and where the Board were paying 9.5p/kwh, the Board are now paying in the region of 35-40p/kwh, inclusive of the government reduction.

1816.3. The DO has received advice from ADA that the IDBs will not be included in the government rebate from next year.

1816.4. The Chair queried the management contribution to which the CEO advised this would increase by RPI as per the agreement.

1816.5. A PWLB repayment of £2k showed in the budget, the Chair queried this, the CEO confirmed this was to allow to borrow money for Swang PS, which is just an assumption at the moment.

1816.6. The CEO highlighted the electricity costs, which is the reason for the significant increase this year.

1816.7. The Board discussed gravity outfalls and refurbishment.

1816.8. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Frost and SECONDED by Mr P Chantry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve a rate of 13.6p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £56,234.

#### **1817. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to Q3**

1817.1. Chair drew attention to Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled.

1817.2. Mr Johnson highlighted a missing invoice from the contractor to which the DO advised this would be resolved shortly.

1817.3. Mr Johnson queried when telemetry was installed, to which the DO advised this should be up and running by the end of the financial year but the license is paid a year in advance.

1817.4. The Board discussed how the telemetry system would work.

1817.5. The Chair queried the payment to Danvm, the DO advised this was for the MEICA Team working on the Board's pumping station.

1817.6. It was PROPOSED by Mr Jacklin and SECONDED by Mr Hall and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve invoices paid and accounts settled to the value of £24,162.25 (net).

#### **1818. Internal Audit**

1818.1. The DPF confirmed the first internal audit of the ADOC Boards for 2022/23 took place in November, recognised the fixed asset valuation policy was adopted. The internal auditor highlighted that all Boards should prioritise implementing a plan to build-up their reserves to a sufficient level, in line with their newly adopted reserves policies.

1818.2. The internal audit report can be found at Appendix D (page X).

#### **1819. Conclusion of Annual Audit**

1819.1. The Board's External Auditors PKF Littlejohn completed their annual audit of the Board and concluded that no matters were of cause for concern. This means the Board has passed the external audit.

1819.2. The external auditor did however note that the dates of the consultation period for members of the public to inspect the accounts should have been 30 working days rather than 30 consecutive days, and consequently that the Board must answer "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

1819.3. The Board discussed the reserves position, the DPF advised the policy is to have 75% of operating costs.

#### **1820. Development Control & Planning**

1820.1. The DO advised only one planning application in the area, with no reason for the Board to object.

#### **1821. Capital Update**

1821.1. After a discussion between the Chair and the CEO, it was decided to suspend the application for a public works loan to increase capacity at Swang PS, pending the outcome of a government-funding scheme.

1821.2. CEO spoke about Thorne Moors, he reported he had held a meeting with the new site manager, a report commissioned by Natural England had highlighted significant issues with the water level management plan.

#### **1822. Maintenance Programme**

- 1822.1. DO confirmed that there is availability for Colwill's to complete some work this year on the drains. Small areas had been missed that the contractor was unable to work on due to cropping.
- 1822.2. Next meeting will look at the programme for works, the Chair suggested looking at spraying specific areas to maintain control of the reeds. As this would need completing prior to June, the DO advised this would need looking at prior to the June Board meeting. The Chair would like anything spraying before June, which was not sprayed on the previous programme.
- 1822.3. The DO advised he would visit the Board areas to look where needed spraying and how it would be treated, spot treating or full length of the watercourse. **Action DO.**
- 1822.4. Mr Johnson queried where spoil would be placed and queried if landowners had a choice. The Do advised a letter would be sent alongside the rates, notifying them of how the Board will be placing the spoil but that landowners were able to liaise with the Boards contractors regarding the placement of the spoil.
- 1822.5. Board discussed the timescales for maintenance and the liaison between the flail and digger contractors.

**1823. Date of Next Meeting**

- 1823.1. The next Full Board Meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 1:00pm.
- 1823.2. The ADOC Consortium Committee is due to take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 9:30am.
- 1823.3. The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.