



Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board

**MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11TH
NOVEMBER 2024 AT WINTRINGHAM COMMUNITY HALL
YO17 8HX**

PRESENT				
<i>Elected</i>	Mr M Morley	Mr A Nutt (C)	Mr D Teasdale	Mr J Stockdale
	Mr A Green	Mr J Beal		
<i>Appointed</i>	Clr S Arnold	Clr M Potter	Clr G Jabbour	
APOLOGIES				
<i>Appointed</i>	Clr C Goodrick			
OFFICERS				
		Mr A McLachlan - Chief Executive Officer		
		Mrs A Larkin – Director of Policy & Finance		
		Mr R Towse – Director of Operations		
		Miss L Smith – Board Secretary		

Andrew McLachlan
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237. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

237.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Cllr Goodrick.

238. Staff Matters

238.1. Redacted

239. Declarations of Interest

239.1. None

240. Additional Agenda Items

240.1. None

241. Health & Safety

241.1. The DO confirmed there were no accidents or near misses to report and that operators continue to complete daily risk assessments as necessary and will undergo their annual health assessments in January.

242. Natural Environment

242.1. No incidents reported.

243. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

243.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes from the previous meeting at Appendix A.

243.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Arnold and SECONDED by Mr Morley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of the previous meeting.

244. Matters Arising

244.1. The CEO referred to minute 232.4 and confirmed Officers had commissioned the Board's consulting engineer to train board staff to conduct primary inspections on bridges.

244.2. He added that the consulting engineers will be carrying out inspections and recommend weight limits and actions to repair these bridges. This was to comply with minimum standards for insurance etc.

244.3. Mr Teasdale queried who would be responsible if a bridge were to fail. The DO advised that normally this would be the responsibility of the landowner, however if the bridge had been installed by the Board for access purposes, the Board may be liable to repair and/or replace.

244.4. Mr A Nutt requested a copy of all bridges that the board were responsible for. **Action DO.**

244.5. Referring to minute 233.5, the CEO confirmed he had contacted a senior officer at the Environment Agency regarding the demaintenance of Costa Beck, however their position remains unchanged for the time being.

245. Financial Position

- 245.1. The CEO drew attention to the latest financial position set out at Appendix B and confirmed there had been no unexpected income or expenditure up to the end of September, however due to recent government funding secured for capital schemes this position will change.
- 245.2. As previously discussed, contractors had been employed to work on the maintenance programme, however this is not currently accounted for.
- 245.3. The DO advised that staff costs are lower this year due to fewer overtime hours being worked.
- 245.4. The DPF advised that the Council were slightly late with the special levy payment, however this has now been received.

246. Drainage Rates

- 246.1. The DPF explained that 97% of the drainage rates income has been received, with £12,418 outstanding, over half of this amount is owed by one ratepayer.
- 246.2. Late payment agreements have been arranged for several ratepayers to the amount of £900 with 11 accounts on hold due to recent or pending queries, totalling approximately £3,300.
- 246.3. The court hearing to obtain liability orders took place on 11th October and were secured for twenty-three unpaid accounts. These debts have been passed to Rundles Enforcement Agents who will pursue recovery on the Board's behalf.

247. External Audit

- 247.1. Members were informed that the Annual Return document (AGAR) was returned on 13th September, and the report concluded that there were "no matters giving cause for concern or that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."
- 247.2. The certified AGAR document had been published along with a notice of conclusion of audit, in accordance with the statutory requirements.

248. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 248.1. The Chair presented Invoices Paid & Accounts Settles at Appendix C and invited questions from the Board.
- 248.2. Mr Teasdale queried the tractor payment, to which the DO reported that a John Deere 6175R had been purchased to replace the New Holland tractor.
- 248.3. The CEO explained the 7-year PWLB which had been previously agreed by the Board to purchase the Mecalac and depot facilities.
- 248.4. Mr Beal highlighted the expenditure on the Hertford to which it was advised this money had been recovered through grant funding.

248.5. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Jabbour and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to the value of £505,429.14 (net).

249. Internal Audit

249.1. The Chair drew attention to the final internal audit report for the period 2023/24, which stated that there were no matters of concern.

249.2. The DPF notified that Board, that to ensure compliance with National Audit Office guidance, on appointing the services of the internal auditor, the Board should routinely consider and/or determine the following:

- the independence of the internal auditor during the year under review.
- agree the internal audit programme of work, having regard to the authority's identified risks, during the year under review.
- be satisfied with regard to the competence of the internal auditor and that there is a signed letter of engagement in place.

249.3. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jabbour and SECONDED by Mr A Nutt and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board considers the independence of the internal auditor, agrees the internal audit programme of work, having regard to the authority's identified risks and satisfies itself with regard to the competence of the internal auditor, confirming there is a signed letter of engagement in place.

250. Public Sector Agreements

250.1. The Board had been instructed by the EA to complete works on the Costa Beck, from Kirby Misperton bridge, up to the last board-maintained watercourse, a mile and half short of Pickering. The DO confirmed these works were now complete.

250.2. Once bird nesting season ended in September, the Boards operational team had completed 800m of willow clearance along the river Derwent, downstream of Ganton.

250.3. EA are also funding walk through clearance works on some smaller rivers.

250.4. Mr Green asked if work would continue down the Hertford towards Staxton to which the DO confirmed it would once the long reach had been serviced.

251. Development Control & Planning

Notable Developments

251.1. ZF24/01277/COND – The DO notified members of the next application related to Scarborough business Park, north of railway line, south of Cayton. The Drainage details are approved, in line with previously agreed discharge rates.

251.2. The DO confirmed there is a central attenuation area, which has the capacity to allow for extensions with no change to run off rate.

- 251.3. ZE24/01683/MOUT – The Board have no objections at this outline stage to 200 dwellings north of Malton, however, have requested ongoing consultation.
- 251.4. Cllr G Jabbour left the meeting.
- 251.5. The CEO advised that there is provision for the secretary of state to create a Statutory Instrument for SuDS Approval Authorities to adopt these SuDS with the ability to raise hypothecated funds for maintenance.
- 251.6. ZF24/00956/OL – The DO confirmed the run-off rate had been agreed at outline stage for 1,400 dwellings near Cayton, most of which fall outside the board area. The board have requested ongoing consultation regarding this matter.
- 251.7. A proposal has been submitted for a solar farm in Brompton. The Board have been consulted and have responded. Officers have requested easements around watercourses so infrastructure will not impact maintenance.

252. Capital Programme

- 252.1. The CEO reminded members of the government funding which had been made available to IDB's this year.
- 252.2. Bids were submitted for Tranche 1 funding, which has now been received and which reimburses previously expended costs for extraneous energy prices and repairs to watercourses due to the extreme, poor weather last year.
- 252.3. Tranche 2 bids were submitted for capital expenditure, £250k of which has been secured. Any works in relation to this funding is to be completed by March 2025.
- 252.4. The DO advised that piling has been completed on North Delph 1 & 2, New Drain, and concrete piling has been completed at Rillington beck.
- 252.5. At West Ends drain, southwest of Thornton le dale, a large scheme has been completed by the board operational team at a cost of 165k.
- 252.6. He added that an S bend on Cow Beck watercourse had been posing issues and therefore a diversion culvert had been installed.
- 252.7. The CEO notified members that the peat scheme, funded by Defra is ongoing. A national working group is investigating whether there is room for policy change to allow IDB's to manage water levels differently for the purposes of conserving peat.
- 252.8. It is not guaranteed that this pilot study will lead to policy changes at this time.
- 252.9. The CEO advised that the significant rainfall event at the end of September caused concern amongst farmers due to the Hertford and the Delphs not being de-weeded. Officers were invited to a meeting at Snainton to speak on this and other issues.
- 252.10. Mr Stockdale raised his concerns that there had been no consultation with the public on the works.

252.11. Both Mr Beal and Mr Green agreed that whilst there may be no legal obligation, the Board should consider whether there is a moral obligation to consult with or notify the public on significant matters.

252.12. The CEO acknowledged Members remarks.

253. Maintenance Update

253.1. The DO informed members that as of October 2024, 243km (61% of total network) of flailing works have been completed, however this figure does not include flailing completed by the Board's appointed contractor. This figure is 6km behind the average over the last three years. Operators from Ouse and Humber gave additional support.

253.2. 44km (11% of total network which includes around 35km completed by contractors) of weed control maintenance has been completed, which is 25km short of where the Board should be at this time.

253.3. It was acknowledged by the Board that staffing levels have impacted maintenance this season.

253.4. Mr Morley queried if it was at a greater cost to the Board for contractors to complete maintenance work than the operational team, to which the DO confirmed this was the case.

254. Staff and Plant Resources

254.1. The CEO raised staffing and plant resources, reminding members that the Board's operational team consists of five members, four of whom are experienced excavator drivers.

254.2. The CEO proposed an option for the Board to consider the employment of an additional operator and machine. [c £0 – 40k].

254.3. The DO advised that another machine is required, purchasing second hand machines is now less risk averse due to the consortium having a full time mechanic and workshop.

254.4. It was highlighted that an existing machine was due to be replaced in 2025-26. Mr Teasdale queried if there was scope in the budget for this to which the CEO confirmed there was.

254.5. The Board discussed the positive impact of use of the long reach on the river Hertford, and questioned whether it would be more cost efficient to use the Mecalac as a digger and contract out the flailing work.

254.6. The CEO confirmed he would put together a proposal for the next Board meeting. **Action CEO.**

255. Board Membership

255.1. The CEO confirmed that the Board has received a resignation letter from Mr Robert Wainwright, who had been a member for a significant amount of time.

255.2. The Board extended their gratitude for his commitment to the Board.

255.3. It was agreed that Officers would approach the Council's Democratic Services department regarding an appointment to the Board. **Action BdSec.**

256. Petitions

256.1. The Chair drew attention to a petition from a ratepayer of Ratten Row, Seamer, at Appendix E.

256.2. The DO advised that he could not find any record that this was previously a board-maintained watercourse.

256.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr Teasdale and SECONDED by Mr Green and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the watercourse should not be added to the maintenance map.

256.4. The Chair presented a petition from Patrick Stephenson Ltd on behalf of a ratepayer in Folkton, at Appendix E.

256.5. The DO advised this had never been a board-maintained watercourse however, whilst this drains from a single landowner, it also takes water from Folkton village and the upstream catchment of the village.

256.6. He highlighted that a percentage of costs could be claimed back through upland water.

256.7. The Chair requested the CEO and DO explore this further and bring back to the board for further discussion. **Action CEO**

257. Date of Next Meeting (s)

257.1. The ADA Northern AGM is scheduled for Friday 22nd November.

257.2. The Joint Consortium Committee is due to be held on 27th November.

257.3. The next Full Board meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 5th February 2024.