



Black Drain Drainage Board

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2025 AT THORNE OLD PEOPLES WELFARE CENTRE

PRESENT					
<i>ELECTED</i>	Mr D Hinchliffe	Mr K Parkinson	Mr M Conroy	Mr R Ketteringham	
	Mr R Hinchliffe				
<i>APPOINTED</i>	Mr R Campbell	Clr M Houlbrook	Ms L Dilks	Mr A Porter	Mr M Oldknow
APOLOGIES					
<i>ELECTED</i>	Mr S Longthorp	Mr D Backhouse			
<i>APPOINTED</i>	Mr P Marran				
ABSENT					
<i>ELECTED</i>					
<i>APPOINTED</i>	Mr C Crowe				
In Attendance					
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
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)

184. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies.

- 184.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies, Mr S Longthorp, Mr D Backhouse and Mr P Marran.

185. Declarations of Interest

- 185.1. Cllr Houlbrook advised he was a member of Doncaster East Drainage Board and the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- 185.2. Members interest forms to be sent out with June papers. **Action BdSec.**

186. Additional Agenda Items

- 186.1. None requested.

187. Health and Safety

- 187.1. No matters to report.

188. Natural Environment

- 188.1. No matters to report.

189. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

- 189.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th June 2024 were reviewed by members.
- 189.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr R Hinchliffe and SECONDED by Mr Conroy and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

190. Matters Arising

- 190.1. Regarding minutes 171, 172 and 173, both Mr Parkinson and Mr Conroy wished to disagree with any proposal for amalgamation.
- 190.2. Mr R Hinchliffe queried if enforcement action commenced in relation to 174.3. The CEO advised this had been raised both formally and informally and that if a satisfactory response was not received by February, he intended the enforcement process would commence.
- 190.3. Cllr Houlbrook referred to minute 180.2 noting that this had had a significant impact on the community and there are regular complaints received in relation to Yorkshire Water. He asked if the Board were satisfied with the reimbursement of staff costs.
- 190.4. The CEO confirmed Officers were satisfied with the reimbursement, however the main concern was that the Board would be classed as producers of the waste and the potential of contaminants leaking out of Durham Warping Drain.

190.5. He confirmed that Officers had taken legal advice and the afore mentioned concerns had been resolved therefore normal maintenance operations could resume.

190.6. Mr Porter arrived.

190.7. It was noted that the headwall on North Common Road was still in the ditch, causing danger to the public and impediment to flow. This matter has been raised by the IDB and members separately. Mr Porter confirmed he would raise this with CDC bridges team.

191. Minutes from the ADOC Consortium Meeting

191.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2024 were duly noted by members.

191.2. Cllr Houlbrook highlighted minute 107.3 and queried if the trees removed from the canal side would be replaced. The CEO confirmed it to be an offence under bylaws to plant trees [within 9m] near a watercourse.

192. Financial Position

192.1. At the time of writing, Officers were predicting an outturn position of +£27k, dependant on the weather and any unexpected events.

192.2. It was confirmed that a large amount of this was due to the Defra government scheme including recovering extraneous energy costs, in the region of £7,422. In addition to this, the Board received additional funds from Highways England and Yorkshire Water.

192.3. Energy costs had been estimated at £55k, however, the outturn figure was expected at £40k, again dependant on the weather.

192.4. The CEO confirmed that the summer meeting in June would define the actual outturn position and the Board would have the option to refresh and amend the budget should they wish to do so.

192.5. Mr Parkinson queried the £87k spent on pump maintenance, to which the DO advised this was due to breakdowns and parts.

192.6. Mr Ketteringham asked if the weed screen funds had been reclaimed from the capital grant scheme, to which the CEO confirmed this was correct and that other funds received would be utilised for piling works.

193. Budget & Rate Setting

193.1. The proposed budget was presented to the Board along with a copy of the 2023/24 accounts for reference and the latest bank reconciliation.

193.2. The CEO explained that there is no requirement to increase the budget significantly this year and that the increase of special levy payments is not substantial.

- 193.3. Mr R Hinchliffe queried how much the Board pay annually for each of the loans to which the DPF confirmed £24,925 for all three. One of these loans will end within the next financial year, and the final two loans will be paid in full by 2031.
- 193.4. The CEO proposed an increase of 3.3% for the 2024/25 drainage rate, lower than the expected inflationary increase of 3.6% in April 2025.
- 193.5. It was PROPOSED by Mr M Oldknow and SECONDED by Mr K Parkinson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve a rate of 21.7p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £197,217.

194. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 194.1. Members reviewed the schedule of invoices paid and accounts settled for the period April to December 2024.
- 194.2. Mr M Oldknow queried the Capitol Park payments, to which the DO advised that there had been some billing errors made by the electricity company. The Board had overpaid and were subsequently receiving rebates via a significant number of transactions.
- 194.3. The Board discussed the energy suppliers and Officers concluded that Woldmarsh had been the best option at the time, however, were not contracted for a significant period, therefore the Board were able to review in Summer.
- 194.4. It was PROPOSED by Mr R Hinchliffe and SECONDED by M Oldknow and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and approve the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled, totalling £139,985.45 (net) for the previous financial periods.

195. Conclusion of Annual Audit

- 195.1. The DPF confirmed the Board's External Auditors PKF Littlejohn had completed their annual audit of the Board and concluded that no matters were of cause for concern, meaning the Board had passed the external audit.

196. Internal Auditor

- 196.1. The Board were invited to consider the independence and competence of the internal auditor and to consider and agree the internal audit programme of work having regard to identified risks.
- 196.2. The CEO advised that Officers were satisfied with the service they are receiving across the consortium however professional appointments were a reserved matter for the Board.
- 196.3. Members were directed to the Internal Auditor's Curriculum Vitae, the Internal Audit Plan, and letter of engagement.
- 196.4. It was PROPOSED by Mr R Ketteringham and SECONDED by Mr M Conroy and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board appoint Northern Internal Audit Services to provide internal audit

services for the financial year 2024/25, upon being satisfied of the provider's independence, competence, and proposed programme of work.

196.5. Ms L Dilks arrived.

197. Drainage Rates

197.1. The DPF confirmed that there was one outstanding balance, which had been referred to an enforcement agency for recovery of funds.

198. Planning & Development Control– Q3 (October - December 2024)

198.1. Referring to White Lane, Thorne, the DO confirmed the developer had cleared one side of the watercourse and that Canal & Rivers Trust had been contacted in relation to this. Mr Parkinson asked about maintenance access; the DO confirmed an access gate be installed.

198.2. Mr D Hinchliffe requested that CDC also contact the Environment Agency in relation to clearing the river Don [course of the old Don on the right bank at Thorne].

198.3. The DO confirmed he was currently investigating an issue with a ditch that runs alongside railway line/Selby Road but advised it was unclear as to who is responsible for this.

198.4. Cllr Houlbrook raised an interest in this matter and advised it was his understanding that this drains from Delves to the petrol station, affecting several landowners and network rail.

198.5. Ms Dilks confirmed this matter was being discussed soon.

198.6. Cllr Houlbrook enquired as to what the repercussions were if no agreement is reached.

198.7. The CEO advised that the IDB will assist but it has a policy to only enact enforcement powers on non-Board maintained watercourses if the costs in doing so are underwritten by others.

199. Maintenance

199.1. The DO highlighted the M18 culverts. Previously, National Highways had completed a culvert cleaning programme and had contacted the IDB as they claimed a watercourse was blocked. Investigations found that the culvert invert along the M18 was lower than any other culvert meaning the issue was with highway apparatus.

199.2. The DO confirmed that he is currently liaising with National Highways with a view to adding highway works to next season's programme.

199.3. North Common Drain which runs along both sides of the railway line cannot undergo any maintenance until the Board have received consent from Network Rail.

199.4. The DO advised that the Board's decision to remove wheeled machines from field maintenance was having a negative effect due to contractor resource.

- 199.5. A solution was proposed, to identify critical watercourses that can be maintained earlier in the season, and less critical works later in the season when tracked machinery is available.
- 199.6. The DO confirmed he had spoken with the contractor regarding bringing the maintenance programme forward.
- 199.7. The Board understood this was a difficult situation, especially with lack of maintenance last year due to pollution.
- 199.8. The DO confirmed that piling works were completed and had been reimbursed through Defra grants and he was considering an additional capital bid for piling at Bunting Drain with possible regrading continuing along Black Drain.
- 199.9. The DO advised this work must be completed relatively quickly and therefore he will begin discussions with landowners.
- 199.10. It was confirmed that all Boards within the consortium have been awarded funding for an 8" pump to be used for mutual aid across the consortium in a flood risk emergency.
- 199.11. Mr Porter asked how much funding had been made available for Tranche 2b, to which the CEO responded, £13m.
- 199.12. Mr D Hinchliffe highlighted the subsidence at Durams Warping Drain PS, to which the DO confirmed he would monitor this and reserve funds as required.
- 199.13. Mr Parkinson asked what the latest government action was on flooding. The CEO gave an update on policy changes in response to climate change, focussing on management of peat soils and the function of IDBs in respect of water level management along with other ongoing reviews.
- 199.14. Mr D Hinchliffe asked for an update on the Humber Strategy 2100; Mr Porter replied that the Officers group had just signed off on the accuracy of the present-day model.

200. Policies

- 200.1. The Anti-Fraud & Corruption, Flytipping, and Whistleblowing policies were duly reviewed and approved by Members.

201. Date of Future Meetings

2025/26

Wednesday 25th June – Full Board Meeting

Wednesday 16th July – Drifffield Show

Tuesday 25th November – ADA Conference (London)

Monday 1st December – ADOC Consortium Committee

Tuesday 2nd December – ADA AGM (online)

Wednesday 28th January – Full Board Meeting