



## Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board

### MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT WINTRINGHAM COMMUNITY HALL

#### PRESENT

##### Elected

Mr J Stockdale

Mr M Morley

Mr J Beal

##### Appointed

Mr S Arnold

Cllr C Goodrick

Cllr M Potter

#### APOLOGIES

##### Elected

Mr A Nutt

Mr D Teasdale

Mr A Green

##### Appointed

Cllr G Jabbour

#### IN ATTENDANCE

##### Officers

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer

Mr R Towse – Director of Operations

Miss L Smith – Board Secretary

##### Others

1 x Member of Public

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

- 258.1. The Board welcomed Members and Officers to the Board, noting apologies from Mr A Nutt, Mr D Teasdale, Cllr Jabbour and Mr A Green.

**259. Declarations of Interest**

- 259.1. None declared.

**260. Health & Safety**

- 260.1. No incidents reported.

**261. Natural Environment**

- 261.1. No matters raised.

**262. Additional Agenda Items**

- 262.1. The CEO highlighted the Internal Auditor's interim report dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024, where it was noted that no concerns had been raised.

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

- 263.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes from the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 263.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Mr J Beal and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of the previous meeting.

**264. Matters Arising**

- 264.1. Cllr Potter referred to minute 251.5 and queried if there had been any progress.
- 264.2. The CEO advised that due to the change in government leadership, there had not been any further decisions made, however the CEO had recently been asked to comment on the national standards.
- 264.3. Cllr Potter requested an update in relation to the ongoing peat scheme. The CEO advised that a meeting had been held the prior to the Board meeting where a scientific approach was discussed in managing peatlands with a report to be produced in the next few months.
- 264.4. The CEO confirmed that there is a potential for IDBs to become water level management authorities and that the statutory framework for this process is being investigated. Statutory changes may be recommended later this year.

**265. Minutes of Consortium Committee Meeting**

- 265.1. The minutes from the Joint Consortium Committee were noted.

## **266. Budget & Rate Setting**

- 266.1. The CEO referred to current financial position where a noticeable underspend on staff costs was highlighted; the CEO explained this was due to fewer overtime hours paid.
- 266.2. In relation to network maintenance, the DO explained that any works not completed by the Board's operational staff had been finished by contractors.
- 266.3. The CEO explained that the income this year was higher than anticipated, largely due to the Defra grant funding. This funding had covered works where the Board's staff and resources had been used, such as for piling works in the Thornton Le Dale area.
- 266.4. He added that the Board continued to benefit from Defra funding, having claimed for "sunk costs" relating to works completed earlier in the year in response to the exceptional weather.
- 266.5. The expected budget outturn for 2024/25, based on current information, was £117k surplus. This meant that the Board's reserves policy position, being 50% of the Board's operating costs, was achievable going into 2025/26.
- 266.6. Turning to the 2025/26 proposed budget, the CEO gave an explanation of the Board's controllable costs [casual overtime, contractors, etc.] and uncontrollable costs [wages, PWLB, etc], adding that the Board must be mindful of how raising the rate and increasing special levy might impact council services.
- 266.7. He explained that the Board subscribes to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Whitebook, members of whom negotiate salaries with Unions to ensure fair representation of market value of staff. For 2025/26, a salary increase of 5.1% across all pay scales had been agreed, meaning an overall increase of £5k per year in National Insurance contributions for operational staff, and £16k NI for shared services staff.
- 266.8. The CEO notified members that the Joint Consortium Committee had agreed to a Consortium contribution increase broadly in line with inflation, resulting in an overall shared services expenditure increase of 1.3%.
- 266.9. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr S Arnold and RESOLVED BY MAJORITY VOTE of 5 to 1 that the Board approves a rate of 16.1p£ to meet an estimated budget of £752,128.
- 266.10. Mr J Beal voted against.

## **267. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled**

- 267.1. The invoices paid and accounts settled for the third financial quarter of 2024/25 were reviewed by the Board.
- 267.2. Mr J Beal highlighted the purchase of a drone and queried the reason for this, to which the DO advised this had been purchased as part of a capital scheme to support with the peatland studies and thus had not been paid for by Board funds.

- 267.3. Mr J Beal suggested that the drone, if used by other Boards, should be done so on a rechargeable basis, to which the DO confirmed that shared services staff would be contracted out to operate this with fees to be paid to VP.
- 267.4. The CEO commented that this equipment had been incredibly useful in supporting the scheme, reducing the time it would have taken to complete surveys manually, as well as supporting the efficiency of maintenance operations.
- 267.5. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Goodrick and SECONDED by Cllr Potter and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled for the last financial quarter to the sum of £348,489.57 (net).

## **268. Development Control & Planning – Q3 (October - December 2024)**

### *Notable Developments*

- 268.1. The DO notified Members of the 1,400 dwellings near Cayton which was mainly outside the Board's area. The runoff rate had been agreed at outline stage and Officers had requested ongoing consultation.
- 268.2. Cllr Potter queried if the attenuation was uplifted for climate change, to which the DO confirmed this was the case, and the Board had a view to adopt the outfall whilst seeking reimbursement for upgrade.
- 268.3. Mr Stockdale asked who was responsible for maintaining the attenuation pond; the DO advised he would investigate this and report back to the Board. **Action DO.**

## **269. Maintenance**

- 269.1. The DO gave an update on planned maintenance to the end of December 2024, noting the following:
- VP Flailing: 309km (78% of entire network)
  - Weed Control: 65km (36% of planned maintenance).
- 269.2. The DO acknowledged that weed control was significantly behind, due to unexpected staff absence over several months, but it was expected that this would be much more complete by March.
- 269.3. The DO advised that no PCSA had been offered for the River Derwent or Costa Beck for 2024/25, but that he would attempt to renegotiate this on the basis that these watercourses are crucial to the Board's drainage network.
- 269.4. Board members highlighted the poor bank maintenance along of the river Derwent, narrowing the channel dramatically.

## **270. Additional Staff Member and Resource**

- 270.1. Following the events of 2024 involving the long-term absence of a staff member, the CEO had been asked to investigate a business case to increase resources.
- 270.2. Whilst it was recognised that bringing in additional contractor resource was an option, there were fewer skilled contractors available for weeding works. The Board currently have four Operators that can drive excavators, two of which were very experienced having worked for IDBs for many years, with the other two becoming increasingly proficient.
- 270.3. The CEO advised that his preferred proposal was to employ an additional operator and purchase an 8-tonne machine, the costs of which were estimated to be in the region of £35-£45k. He advised that this was affordable within the current 2024/25 budget, and had been reflected in the current outturn position.
- 270.4. The estimated annual cost of running and maintaining the machine would be £6-7k. The CEO commented that the Board had planned to retire a pickup truck this year, but could retain this for 1 to 2 years, filtering in an additional vehicle over time.
- 270.5. The estimated cost of an additional member of staff, including employer's pension and national insurance contributions, was around £48k. The CEO advised this had been built into the 2025-26 budget, but could be afforded within the current budget.
- 270.6. The Board discussed the extent of the drainage district and the need for additional staff, and that of retaining current staff. Given the expected outturn position this year, the CEO recommended that this was the optimum time to make such a decision.
- 270.7. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Goodrick and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the purchase of a second-hand 8-tonne excavator and recruitment of an additional operator.
- 270.8. Turning to Board membership, the Board were notified that there were two vacancies for elected members, and that members may wish to co-opt a new member(s) at the next meeting.
- 270.9. It was also confirmed that there was a vacancy for an appointed member from NYCC.

**271. Date of Next Meeting (s)**

- 271.1. The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as per below and the meeting was closed.

**2025/26 Dates**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Full Board Meeting

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Drifffield Show

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Full Board Meeting

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025– ADA Flood & Water Conference (London)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Joint Consortium Committee

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – ADA Annual General Meeting (Online)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Full Board Meeting