



Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2025 AT WINTRINGHAM COMMUNITY HALL, YO17 8HX.

PRESENT

Elected

Mr M Morley

Mr J Beal

Mr R McNay

Mr J Stockdale (VCh)

Appointed

Cllr S Arnold

Cllr M Potter

Cllr C Goodrick

APOLOGIES

Elected

Mr A Nutt (Ch)

ABSENT

Elected

Mr D Teasdale

Mr A Green

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
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272. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- 272.1. The Vice Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting, noting apologies from the Chair, Mr A Nutt.

273. Declarations of Interest

- 273.1. None declared.

274. Additional Agenda Items

- 274.1. None raised.

275. Health & Safety

- 275.1. The DO confirmed there were no notable incidents to report.

276. Natural Environment

277. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

- 277.1. The Chair drew attention to the minutes from the previous meeting held on 6th February 2025.
- 277.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Arnold and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of the previous meeting.

278. Matters Arising

- 278.1. Cllr Potter referred to minute 268.3 and queried if accountability of the attenuation pond had been ascertained, to which the DO confirmed this would be the responsibility of the developer.
- 278.2. The DO confirmed that a second-hand excavator had been purchased at a cost of £40k from auction.
- 278.3. The CEO referred to a Board membership enquiry following the last meeting. Mr R McNay had attended as an observer and the CEO had subsequently contacted Members requesting a decision to co-opt Mr McNay to the Board.
- 278.4. It was PROPOSED by Mr J Beal and SECONDED by Cllr Arnold and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board co-opt Mr R McNay.
- 278.5. Members discussed the removal and deposition of spoil from watercourses, with Mr Beal highlighting that banks were gradually increasing on riparian owners' land making it difficult for landowners to conduct their own maintenance.
- 278.6. The CEO requested that landowners contact the Board in such instances so that this can be discussed.

278.7. Mr Beal queried the Board's position regarding depositing arisings, to which the CEO explained that lawfully under section 15 of the Land Drainage Act, the Board can deposit arisings within one mechanical operation without making payment to the landowner.

279. Annual Risk Register & Health and Safety Review

279.1. The CEO confirmed that a desktop review comparing risks against the previous year had been completed and proceeded to present a draft risk register for 2025.

279.2. It was noted by the Board that there were no significant changes or risks identified within the register, but to remain mindful that this could change in the future.

279.3. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Arnold and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised risk register for 2025.

280. Annual Health and Safety Report

280.1. The CEO reported that in 2024/25, Board staff had individually attended twelve training sessions ranging from Safe Working Near Water through to Emergency First Aid.

280.2. The DO confirmed that there had been two management meetings to review risk assessments and safe working procedures and one meeting with staff from across the organisation, where staff could provide constructive feedback and recommendations in an open forum.

280.3. Cllr Potter thanked the management and staff for their efforts in preventing accidents and for ensuring the safety of themselves and others.

280.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Arnold and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and accept the annual review of the Health and Safety Management System.

281. Professional Appointments to the Board

281.1. The CEO presented the current professional appointments to the Board and recommended that Members review these for good practice.

281.2. Recently, Officers had been informed that the current internal auditor, who provides internal audit services for the YHDB Consortium, would be retiring in the summer and that consequently, a replacement internal auditor needed to be appointed ideally in advance of the next round of Board meetings to commence their work programme for 2025/26.

281.3. It was recommended that the authority to appoint the new internal auditor be delegated to the Joint Consortium Committee and subsequently ratified by the individual Boards.

281.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Arnold and SECONDED by Cllr Potter and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board delegate authority to the Joint Consortium Committee to appoint an internal auditor.

281.5. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Arnold and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board appoint; Wilkin Chapman LLP (Solicitors), Hunter Gee Holroyd Ltd

(Accountants), Mason Clark Associates Ltd (Consulting Engineers), Mr Simon Jepps BSc MSc and of Thomas Mackay Ltd (Hydrologist), Mr Ralph Ward FRICS and of Frank Hill & Son (Valuer and Surveyor) and Cutler IT Ltd (IT Support), as professional service providers to the Board.

282. Accounting Statements and Annual Return

- 282.1. It was confirmed that the Board's accountants, Hunter Gee Holroyd Ltd, had prepared the Board's official accounts and annual return documents for the period 2024/25 and the DPF referred members to these documents.
- 282.2. The DPF highlighted that the Defra IDB Fund monies received during the year had meant that the Board's expenditure on staff time, administration and asset management had significantly reduced.
- 282.3. Due to the purchase of plant and machinery during the year, the Board's operational expenditure had increased in comparison to last year.
- 282.4. It was confirmed that the internal auditor had reviewed these documents and the DPF explained that the Board must consider the eight annual governance statements and express their agreement or disagreement with each.
- 282.5. Cllr Goodrick arrived.
- 282.6. The CEO proceeded to read the eight annual governance statements.
- 282.7. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Mr R McNay and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.
- 282.8. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Arnold and SECONDED by Mr J Beal and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25.

283. Budget

- 283.1. The CEO confirmed that over a period of 20 weeks, consortium staff were successful in delivering £4m of capital schemes across the consortium area. A notable benefit was that staff costs were charged to these schemes, reducing the shared services costs typically incurred by the Board.
- 283.2. Members were reminded that the Board's reserves policy position was 50% of operational costs, which was currently £297k. A sum of £92k had been ringfenced for plant purchase which left the reserves position at a healthy 46.6%.
- 283.3. The Board discussed the funding received from Defra and the general bidding process, along with the latest LAPWDP scheme, where the Board had installed an experimental weir at Ganton as part of the Defra's Lowland Agricultural Peat Project
- 283.4. Mr Stockdale questioned who was responsible for the management of the weir, to which the DO confirmed this was the responsibility of the Board.

- 283.5. Mr McNay highlighted pollution in the Hertford and runoff from a new development that appeared to be increasing the water level rapidly within a short period of time. The DO confirmed he would investigate further. **Action DO.**

284. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 284.1. The DPF presented the schedule of invoices paid during the 4th quarter of 2024/25 and invited questions from the Board.
- 284.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Arnold and SECONDED by Cllr Potter and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to the value of £252,460.70 (net).

285. Internal Audit

- 285.1. The internal auditor's second interim and final audit reports for 2024/25 were reviewed and the Board noted that no matters of concern had been raised.

286. Public Sector Agreements

- 286.1. The DO advised the Board that the EA were now communicating with IDBs in relation to the annual precept payment. The Board now had an opportunity to propose how these funds should be spent locally, within the district.
- 286.2. Officers had requested that these funds be used to conduct maintenance operations on the Costa Beck and River Derwent.
- 286.3. Mr Beal highlighted a fallen tree which was causing an impediment to flow. **DO to raise this with EA.**
- 286.4. The DO confirmed that he was discussing the potential of conducting four additional PSCA schemes.

287. Development Control & Planning

- 287.1. The DO highlighted a development which had been proposed outside the Board's district but would interact with Board-maintained watercourses through run off.

288. Capital Programme

- 288.1. The DO advised that the Board had planned to replace the older Doosan excavator in 2026/27, however due to ongoing mechanical and electrical issues and an estimated repair cost of £9k, he recommended that the replacement of this machine be brought forward meaning the budget would be adjusted [from reserves] bringing this purchase forward.
- 288.2. The DO confirmed that three quotes had been sought to part exchange the existing vehicle.
- 288.3. It was anticipated that the cost would be in the region of £90-92k to purchase a 13-tonne, 7-year-old Komatsu. This vehicle had a 3000-hour extended warranty and 6000 hours DPF change with 3 years servicing and warranty.

- 288.4. The CEO confirmed that both price and quality would be considered prior to purchase.
- 288.5. Cllr Goodrick queried how much this would be used, to which the DO advised it would be used all year, with the current vehicle having more tracked mileage per year than any other within the consortium.
- 288.6. The Board had received £41k from Defra's IDB Recovery and Asset Improvement fund to construct an overflow from the watercourse known as "the Cut" into the river Derwent, behind the Rugby Club and upstream of its original route.
- 288.7. The DO advised that this project was necessary due to the lower section of the watercourse running through dense woodland, making it inaccessible for maintenance.
- 288.8. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Goodrick and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the capital programme.

289. Maintenance Update

- 289.1. The DO reported that, due to an instance of long-term staff absence during the year, maintenance had fallen behind, however since regaining a full complement of staff and favourable weather, the previous years maintenance plan was nearing completion.

290. Costa Beck

- 290.1. The CEO updated the Board on Judicial Review taken by Pickering Fisheries Association against Defra in respect of the planned measures for Costa Beck.

291. Policies

- 291.1. Policies for review and approval were emailed to Members along with the Board papers prior to the meeting for their review and approval.
- 291.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Goodrick and SECONDED by Cllr Arnold and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board reviews and approves the policies.

292. Staff Matters

- 292.1. The CEO informed Members of a recent resignation from the Board's operational team. The Board had previously agreed to create an additional operational role, and therefore through the usual recruitment process, both vacancies had been filled.

293. Date of Next Meeting (s)

- 293.1. The next meetings were confirmed as follows:
- Wednesday 12th November 2025 – Full Board Meeting – Cllr Goodrick apologies.
 - Thursday 27th November 2025 – Joint Consortium Committee