



Vale of Pickering Internal Drainage Board

**MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH
NOVEMBER 2025 AT WINTRINGHAM COMMUNITY HALL, YO17 8HX.**

PRESENT

Elected	Mr A Green	Mr R McNay	Mr M Morley	Mr J Stockdale
	Mr A Nutt	Mr J Beal		
Appointed	Cllr M Potter			

APOLOGIES

Elected		
Appointed	Cllr Arnold	Cllr Goodrick

ABSENT

Elected	Mr D Teasdale
---------	---------------

Officers	Mr A McLachlan	Chief Executive Officer
	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

294. Announcements

294.1. The Chairman informed members of the passing of Mr Phil Fisher, retired Surveyor and Senior Technical Officer to the Board. Members observed a minute's silence.

295. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

295.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting noting apologies from Cllr Arnold and Cllr Goodrick.

296. Declarations of Interest

296.1. None.

297. Additional Agenda Items

297.1. None.

298. Health & Safety

298.1. The DO reported no significant issues other than routine updates to risk assessments.

299. Natural Environment

299.1. The DO advised that the ongoing scheme in Malton was progressing, though some permit issues were still being resolved.

300. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

300.1. The minutes from the previous meeting held on 11th June 2025 were reviewed.

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

301. Minutes of the Extraordinary Joint Consortium Committee

301.1. The Board noted the minutes of the extraordinary JCC meeting.

302. Matters Arising

302.1. There were no matters arising.

303. Financial Position

303.1. The CEO presented the Quarter 2 budget variance charts and noted that income was slightly ahead of expectations due to improved drainage rate collection and that the upland water contribution from the Environment Agency (EA) had this year been received in full.

303.2. In respect of expenditure, £90k had been transferred from reserves for the purchase of the new machine, as previously agreed.

- 303.3. Hire costs remained included in plant and machinery expenditure therefore, this figure might increase.
- 303.4. Referring to staff costs, the Board noted a reduction, to which the DO explained this was due to one vacancy, currently advertised along with few overtime hours worked this year.

304. Drainage Rates

- 304.1. It was reported that 95% of the drainage rates income had been received, with £22,695 outstanding. Approximately £1,257 was owed by ratepayers who had entered into late payment agreements and £10,500 was owed by ratepayers who had failed to pay. Court summons' had been sent to twenty-three ratepayers, with £100 costs added to each account. The court hearing was due to take place on 14th November.
- 304.2. There were nineteen accounts on hold due to pending or recent changes, totalling approximately £10,938.

305. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 305.1. The schedule of invoices paid, and accounts settled for the period April to September 2025 were presented to the Board, with questions invited from the CEO.
- 305.2. The Chair queried the hire of a 13 tonne machine and the DO confirmed this was undertaken before the purchase of the 8-tonne unit; some costs had been recharged to capital schemes.
- 305.3. Mr Green queried "Synology Rack Station Expansion" and the CEO clarified this was hardware purchased for capital schemes, since recharged to Defra.
- 305.4. Mr Morley queried repair works for the Board. The DO explained this was a recharge at no cost to the Board.
- 305.5. Mr Beal requested capital and recharges be identified on the schedule. **Action CEO**
- 305.6. It was PROPOSED by Mr R McNay and SECONDED by Mr A Nutt and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board notes and approves the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to the value of £543,515.16 (net).

306. External Audit

- 306.1. The Annual Return document (AGAR) was returned on 5th September and duly published on the Board's website before the 30th September. The auditor's report concluded that there were "no matters giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."
- 306.2. The CEO confirmed Officers will review IT policies and website compliance ahead of next year's expanded requirements.

307. Internal Audit

Appointment of New Internal Auditor

- 307.1. Following delegated authority to the Joint Consortium Committee, Members considered the recommendation to appoint Mr Richard Dixon (Public Sector Audit).
- 307.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr A Nutt and SECONDED by Cllr M Potter and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board ratify the appointment of Mr Richard Dixon T/A Public Sector Audit, as the Board's new Internal Auditor.
- 307.3. It was PROPOSED by Cllr M Potter 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 regarding the competence of the internal auditor, confirming there is a signed letter of engagement in place.

308. Public Sector Agreements

- 308.1. The DO reported the EA's increasing reliance on IDBs completing works in the Derwent & Esk area, due to staffing and machinery constraints.
- 308.2. He confirmed that the Costa Beck was flailed and de-weeded from Misperton Bridge to the wood south of Pickering.
- 308.3. Also, weed-cutting on the river Derwent was attempted but not possible due to low water levels.
- 308.4. Main river were requested and provisionally funded, however could not proceed due to environmental restrictions and therefore not awarded.
- 308.5. The DO reported that overall, partnership working with the EA field teams remained positive, notwithstanding biodiversity restrictions impacting on progress.

309. Development Control & Planning

- 309.1. The following development control matters were reported to members:
- ZE25/00612/MOUT – 150 dwellings in Pickering. No objection at outline stage, subject to full drainage design.
 - ZE24/01683/MOUT – two hundred dwellings north of Malton. Drainage design now submitted, no objection subject to Land Drainage Consent.
 - Drainage consent issued for National Gas Works affecting Ings Dike, off Marton Lane nr. Aislaby.

310. New Public Procurement Legislation

- 310.1. The CEO outlined significant changes arising from The Procurement Act 2023, effective 2025, introducing new statutory thresholds for goods & services and works, mandatory notice publication and updates required to procurement procedures and financial regulations.

- 310.2. The CEO requested Board approval to follow the draft procurement procedure in line with current best practice and, if necessary, obtain professional advice to ensure legal compliance until the new process is fully adopted.
- 310.3. Due to the complex nature of this procedure, this will take a significant amount of time to examine, and it was therefore recommended that delegated authority be given to Chair and Vice-Chair to review and adopt the new procedure which includes changes to the financial regulations.
- 310.4. It was PROPOSED by Cllr M Potter and SECONDED by Mr M Morley and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board authorise the CEO to follow a draft process to ensure compliance with the 2023 Public Procurement Regulations on an interim basis and that they give delegated authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to approve the necessary changes to the Financial Regulations.

311. Capital Programme

- 311.1. The DO reported that maintenance cannot be carried out on a section of The Cut near the Boardwalk in Old Malton due to wildlife constraints.
- 311.2. Funding had been received from the Derwent & Esk Environment Agency team for a cross-culvert installation, and officers had submitted the required schedule to the biodiversity team for approval. Materials, including the headwall and pipe, were to be purchased in preparation for installation at a later date.
- 311.3. The Board were reminded of their responsibility of eleven bridges, although liability for one structure remained under review pending clarification from the landowner. Several bridges over the Hertford were highlighted as areas of concern due to their ageing steel-beam and timber-sleeper construction.
- 311.4. A current personal injury claim relating to one bridge was being handled by the Board's insurers.
- 311.5. Structural engineers had reviewed the bridges and had advised that full principal inspections be carried out every five years, involving invasive surveys at considerable cost, likely resulting in weight restrictions.
- 311.6. The CEO confirmed that a recent meeting with the loss adjuster had led to development of an enhanced annual inspection regime.
- 311.7. The CEO advised that the Board will need to consider replacing the timber decks on four Hertford bridges over the next two years at an estimated £12k per bridge. In the third year, further structural surveys were proposed, alongside a recommendation to allocate £24k annually to reserves to fund future bridge improvements.
- 311.8. The DO proposed replacing the pile hammer which may help offset some costs associated with this programme.

- 311.9. Updates on plant and equipment were provided by the DO. The mower was undergoing welding repairs and might require full replacement at a later date.
- 311.10. In response to the Chair's query about the necessity of annual ditch mowing, the CEO explained that not doing so would lead to significantly greater remedial works in future years.
- 311.11. Mr Nutt queried if every ditch needs to be mowed annually.
- 311.12. The CEO advised that not doing so would result in more intense maintenance works being required.
- 311.13. The DO reported that flailing works were not yet complete, but that four machines were running alongside the long-reach in the hope to cover as much of the Board area as possible.
- 311.14. Mr Morley asked if repairs to the Mecalac had been completed, to which the DO confirmed a replacement window and replacement valve had been fitted.

312. Planned Visit by Defra 28th November 2025.

- 312.1. The CEO informed members of a forthcoming visit from a senior civil servant at Defra to see works completed in relation to the peat scheme, and asked if any members would wish to be involved.
- 312.2. R McNay and Cllr Potter volunteered to meet with them.
- 312.3. The CEO reported that telemetry on the weir was active, and had indicated that the water table is higher in some fields than it is in the Hertford to the east side of the A64.

313. Maintenance Update

- 313.1. The DO reported that works on Thornton Beck confluence had been discussed with the EA, in view to completion this financial year.
- 313.2. Mr Morley queried if the EA had been to investigate, to which the DO confirmed they had and were in agreement that it requires tree works and reinstatement.
- 313.3. He reported that North Delph had not yet been completed, but was due to be carried out soon.
- 313.4. Mr A Nutt raised concerns regarding the timing of maintenance on watercourses which affect several landowners. The north and south delphs were drainage channels either side of the river, joining at Foulbridge and Yedingham to which most of the east of the valley drains.
- 313.5. Mr A Nutt provided images of the watercourses he raised concerns about and suggested that these watercourses be prioritised for maintenance in July/August.
- 313.6. The DO advised that additional resources would be required to incorporate this within the current schedule of works, or a reduction in maintenance elsewhere.

- 313.7. It was highlighted by Mr Beal, that the prioritisation of these watercourses should not be of detriment to maintenance conducted elsewhere in the drainage district.
- 313.8. The Board discussed staff willingness to work overtime and the subscription to the ADA Whitebook terms and conditions.
- 313.9. Mr Green suggested using a water conditioner with roundup to prevent hard water reducing efficiency of weed control chemicals.
- 313.10. Concerns regarding Brompton Beck were discussed, an upland carrier, which required maintenance.
- 313.11. There was a discussion regarding the purchase of a long-reach machine, however it was suggested that a sliding boom attachment may suffice. The DO was aware of an example of this at a Lincolnshire Board.
- 313.12. It was confirmed that the annual maintenance map would be provided at the February meeting for discussion.

314. Staff Matters

- 314.1. The CEO reported that a vacancy for an operator had been advertised, with interviews due to take place in early December.

315. Date of Next Meeting (s)

- 315.1. The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as follows:

- Friday 21st November – ADA Northern Branch
- Tuesday 25th November – ADA Flood & Water
- Thursday 27th November 2025 – Joint Consortium Committee
- Wednesday 11th February 2026 – Full Board Meeting