



## Rawcliffe Internal Drainage Board

### MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH JUNE AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE, HU15 2FW.

#### PRESENT

<b>Elected</b>	Mr D Backhouse	Mr P Chantry (C)	Mr J Lewis
<b>Appointed</b>	Mr D Mckenna	Mr K Fillingham	Cllr C Fox

#### APOLOGIES

<b>Elected</b>	Mr P Sykes	Mr P Blacker
<b>Appointed</b>	Mr S Shubrook	Mrs S Backhouse

#### ABSENT

<b>Elected</b>	Mr D Nicholson
<b>Appointed</b>	Cllr L Sargeantson

#### IN ATTENDANCE

<b>Officers</b>	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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**957. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies.**

957.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr S Shubrook, Mr P Sykes, Mr P Blacker and Mrs S Backhouse.

**958. Declarations of Interest**

958.1. None declared.

**959. Additional Agenda Items**

959.1. None raised.

**960. Health and Safety**

960.1. No matters to report.

**961. Natural Environment**

961.1. No matters to report.

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

962.1. The Chair presented minutes of the previous meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

962.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr McKenna and SECONDED by Mr P Chantry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

**963. Matters Arising**

963.1. Mr P Chantry raised notice being served on National Highways. The DO advised they had now presented a programme of works and the Board were awaiting confirmation that maintenance will progress.

**964. Annual Risk Register and Health & Safety Review**

964.1. The CEO confirmed business risks had been assessed in comparison to last year and presented a draft risk register for 2025/26.

964.2. The CEO confirmed the risk in relation to reserves had been reduced as there was a reasonable surplus following the preparation of the 2024/25 accounts, boosting the Board's reserves position.

964.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr Backhouse and SECONDED by Mr Fillingham and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised risk register for 2025/26.

964.4. The CEO confirmed that the Board continue to operate within the approved Health & Safety Management System and that two management reviews had been held to review and update risk assessments and safe working practices.

964.5. A new safe working procedure in relation to HAVS was in the process of being introduced, where operational staff were to wear an electronic device on their wrist to measure vibration levels.

964.6. There were no significant issues to report for the Rawcliffe Drainage Board this year.

964.7. The Board noted and accepted the annual review of the Health and Safety Management System.

**965. Accounting Statements and Annual Return**

965.1. The DPF 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 drew attention these in the papers.

965.2. The DPF reported that the internal auditor had confirmed "Yes" to all internal control objectives and circulated the latest Internal Auditors Report to Members.

965.3. The DPF referred to the schedule of accounts and highlighted the Defra IDB Recovery and Asset Improvement fund where Rawcliffe IDB had been successful in recovering an approximate £10k rebate for excessive energy consumption and £14k for pump station repairs.

965.4. There had been an underspend on energy, contributing to the Board's surplus figure.

965.5. The DPF requested that prior to approving the accounts, the Board consider the "Annual Governance Statement with Internal Controls" and indicate their agreement or disagreement with each statement and proceeded to read these aloud.

965.6. It was PROPOSED by Mr Mckenna and SECONDED by Mr Fillingham and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.

965.7. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Fox and SECONDED by Mr Chantry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25.

**966. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled**

966.1. The Chair referred members to the schedule of invoices paid for the fourth financial quarter of 2024/25 and invited questions from the Board.

966.2. Mr Chantry queried the Geo Upgrades, to which the DO advised there had been a software upgrade to the telemetry system.

966.3. It was PROPOSED by Mr Backhouse and SECONDED by Mr Mckenna and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note and approve the record of Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled, totalling £18,377.61 (net) for the last financial quarter.

## **967. Internal Audit**

- 967.1. The DPF referred to the final internal auditor's report for 2024/25, in which no concerns had been raised.

## **968. Planning & Development**

- 968.1. The DO advised that an agricultural storage unit had been proposed for development on Mill Lane, and that a drainage design had been requested.
- 968.2. There was a proposed tissue processing mill on the border of the district, however, this was not expected to impact the Board's network. Planning permission had been granted, however there was a consent pending for surface water discharge.
- 968.3. The Board were working with the developer to ensure there would be an easement on the far bank to allow access for maintenance.

## **969. Capital Programme**

- 969.1. The CEO reminded members that £75m of funding was made available for IDBs through Defra grants last year, and that officers had been successful in securing over £4m for schemes across the Consortium.
- 969.2. Tranche 1 of the funding allowed IDBs to recover "sunk costs", which were effectively rebates for such things as excessive energy consumption and repair costs to pump stations.
- 969.3. Officers were selective with bids placed and had to consider the scale of the projects against the timeframe required to deliver them. The CEO was pleased to report that all schemes were delivered successfully across the Consortium.
- 969.4. Funds were received for a panel replacement at Dobella Pump Station which was awaiting installation. An isolation point was required, which meant Northern PowerGrid were required to disconnect the site to allow the MEICA team to progress with the scheme.
- 969.5. The Board were also successful in securing a mobile diesel pump for support in emergencies and for mutual aid benefit. There were now fifteen mobile pumps across the Consortium.
- 969.6. Cllr Fox queried if the parish councils would be notified that the Board had possession of these pumps. The CEO advised that in a flooding emergency, if support were requested from the ERYC, the Board would be able to offer this.
- 969.7. Cllr Fox queried the responsibility of maintenance along Drax link road, to which the DO advised there was a division of duties between Rawcliffe IDB and Goole and Airmyn IDB.
- 969.8. The Chair thanked members of staff for securing the funding which has been of great benefit to the Board.

969.9. The CEO confirmed the study had been completed for the replacement of Pastures and Dobella pumps and had concluded that this would require refurbishment to both pump stations rather than replacement. He added that from April next year, the government will introduce a new appraisal system which may support the Board in being able to proceed with this scheme.

#### **970. Maintenance**

970.1. The DO confirmed that the Betsy pump replacement was in the depot, however had been awaiting pipework replacement. This was to be installed in the forthcoming weeks which will mean the Betsy becomes redundant.

970.2. The DO reported an issue with the pump at West End, commenting that although it was only replaced in 2017, it was failing due to a corrosion issue, with leaking water. A replacement would cost in the region of £15k, however an alternative would be to position the Betsy to see how well this works.

970.3. Otherwise, the purchase of a replacement would be required.

970.4. The DO confirmed that pump station maintenance was now being undertaken by Danvm's operational and MEICA teams on a proactive basis.

970.5. Regarding the maintenance programme for 2025/26, the DO explained that an ad-hoc approach had been taken previously due to budget constraints, however the Board were now in a position to create a structured maintenance plan to de-weed primary watercourses annually and desilt/chemically treat secondary watercourse on a rotational basis.

970.6. Mr Fillingham highlighted that the Dobella Drain north required additional maintenance between the canal and the railway. The DO acknowledged this and advised that this must be separate from usual maintenance due to the need to access it with a long reach and it would not be chemically treated.

970.7. The Chair requested that the agreed maintenance plan be circulated to Board Members, to which the DO confirmed it would be published online.

970.8. The Chair requested that the plan be sent via post to all ratepayers. The CEO advised that this would be a significant cost to the Board, and that ratepayers were directed to the Board's maintenance plans online each year in the rates literature.

970.9. Mr D Backhouse raised the spoil, as this is sometimes left on a drilled field. The DO advised that spoil is left on whichever side is easiest to access within one mechanical reach.

970.10. The CEO recommended that a maintenance strip be left for spoil to be deposited and that he, along with ADA, continue to advocate for an SFI scheme for maintenance strips.

970.11. The Chair queried if the contractors were using rubber ducks or tracked machines, to which the DO confirmed this was weather dependent.

970.12. The Board confirmed that they agreed the proposed maintenance plan.

**971. Date of Future Meetings**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – ADOC Consortium Committee

Tuesday 27th January 2026 – Full Board Meeting