

# ISLE OF AXHOLME AND NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room, on Tuesday, 24th September 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

## Elected Members

- \* Messrs M.A. Harris (Chairman)
- \* R. Adam (Vice-Chairman)
- A. Barker
- P. Bradwell
- G.R.J. Bramhill
- \* R.H. Brown
- J. Coggon
- \* P. Cornish
- \* K. Durdy
- \* R. Mason
- \* M. Wagstaff
- \* S. White

## Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

- \* Cllr R. Allcock
- \* Mr N. Arrand
- \* Cllrs T. Barker
- \* J. Briggs
- Messrs R. Chapman
- N. Culpin
- Cllr W. Eckhardt
- Mr J. Lee
- Cllr D. Robinson
- Mr J. Smith
- Cllr Mrs L. Redfern

## Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

- \* Cllr Mrs H. Brand
- \* Cllr Mrs J.M. Sanger

## \* *Present*

- \* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- \* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- M. Mitchell (Director of Technical Services)
- \* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- \* M.D. Pilkington (Works Supervisor)
- \* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- \* Miss H. O'Callaghan (Nottinghamshire County Council)

## \* *In attendance*

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. Barker, P. Bradwell, G.R.J. Bramhill, J. Coggon, N. Culpin, J. Lee, Cllrs W. Eckhardt, D. Robinson and Mrs L. Redfern.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs H. Brand and Cllr R. Allcock declared an interest in agenda item 12 as members of Owston Ferry Pumping Engine Preservation Society.

Cllrs R. Allcock and J. Briggs declared an interest in agenda item 16:3 (planning applications).

## 3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 125 to 142)

The Chairman reported that there had been a slight error on the attendance list which would be amended before the minutes were signed.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25th June 2013 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the amendment above.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 16, Page 142 - Data Protection Policy

The Chief Executive was awaiting response from the Board's solicitors and would report back to the November Board meeting.

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6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Consortium Committee meeting held on 17th September 2013 were circulated.

In response to Mr P. Cornish, the Chief Executive reported that the cost of legal advice sought regarding consortia would be in the region of £2,500 for Counsel's Advice and £2,000 for the Consortium Agreement. He stated that the Boards would not incur any further costs. It was noted that officers had been working in conjunction with the Water Management Alliance sharing advice and this had reduced the cost.

Regarding Consortium costs to the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB, the Chief Executive stated that the very wet year had meant further assistance had been required and the cost was, therefore, slightly higher than was originally estimated.

The Chief Executive reported that several requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act had been received since last Board meeting. These related to the individual boards and the Consortium. Cllr Mrs H. Brand queried the amount of staff time spent on dealing with these requests and asked at what point they were considered to be vexatious. The Chief Executive confirmed that he would be monitoring this but nothing further had been heard since his last response.

Members were satisfied with the arrangements in place for Consortium working and the Chairman reported that he would sign the new agreement after the Board meeting.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Consortium Committee held on 17th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and the resolutions be adopted by the Board.

## 7. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates totalling £327,920.24 had been collected as at 12th September 2013; this equated to 79% and was slightly higher than at the same time last year. It was noted that there was still £4,300 outstanding from last year but £1,570 of this was in respect of one ratepayer who had been declared bankrupt and it may be necessary to write this amount off.

Approximately half the special levies had been paid by the district councils.

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## 8. FINANCE

### 8:1 Cash Reserves and Investments

The Director of Finance reported that the Board currently had a total of £1,149,612.62 invested in four bank/building society accounts. A total of £173,868.64 remained outstanding in respect of seven Public Works Loan Board annuity loans.

It was noted that the interest rates were continuing to fall.

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### 8:2 Accounts for the Period Ended 31st August 2013

The Director of Finance reported a net surplus to date of £174,738 which was £209,000 favourable to budget. Officers presented a detailed report on the following major variances:

Rate collection - ahead of budget resulting in a variance of £74,000 to date.

Drain maintenance - due to the weather there had been very little vegetation growth so no early cuts were required resulting in a saving to date of £25,000.

Drainage and reforming works - a variance to date of £162,000 due to the delay of the Crowle and Telemetry schemes.

Plant costs - a variance to date of £31,000 due to increased fuel costs and unexpected repairs on the Volvo and Caterpillar excavators.

The Director of Finance stated that the revised forecast for the year-end was for a deficit of £436,777 against a budget £437,238; this included accruals for capital projects unspent in 2012/13.

It was noted that Plant costs estimated at £10,000 were expected for new tracks on the Volvo excavator and major repairs on the Caterpillar excavator and this cost would be met from balances.

RESOLVED

That the Board's financial position be noted.

8:3 2013 External Audit

Members were pleased to hear that the Board had received a clean unqualified audit report for 2012/13 from the external auditors, Grant Thornton.

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9. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Director of Finance presented the attached schedule detailing payments made since the last Board meeting totalling £308,007.01.

RESOLVED

That the attached Schedule be approved.

10. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Works Supervisor presented the attached report for information which detailed the position as at 1st September 2013.

A report on the Wiseton depot building would be presented to the next meeting for consideration.

The Works Supervisor explained that work in the Everton area had been delayed at the request of local farmers who used the water for irrigation. He confirmed that the work would be carried out at a later date.

The Director of Operations stated that summer maintenance works were 10% ahead of schedule.

The Chairman reported that he had received a call from a ratepayer complimenting the Board on the work that had been undertaken.

RESOLVED

That the attached report be noted.

11. PROPOSED DEPOT AT OWSTON FERRY

The Chief Executive reported that the Environment Agency (EA) had confirmed that it would be willing to sell part of the site at Owston Ferry at a cost of £15,000 or to rent this to the Board for £1,500 per annum. The Board's architect had confirmed that the proposed building would fit on the area offered by the EA but the Chief Executive would make further enquiries into purchasing a slightly larger area. The proposed site was better value than similar sites within the Board's area.

Cllr R. Allcock had recently attended an EA workshop where maintenance had been discussed. He stated that the EA budget had been severely cut and as a result work was being cut back. At the workshop the EA had stated that maintenance carried out in the past was only permissive in law and suggested that riparian owners may be asked to carry out maintenance in the future. Cllr Allcock understood that all future maintenance undertaken by

the EA would be based on risk assessment and no new banks would be cut. The EA was also looking at partnership funding with other organisations including IDBs.

The Chairman stated that the Board must continue to lobby the local politicians. He was concerned that the EA did not realise the impact that lack of maintenance on main rivers would have on the local community.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive continue negotiations with the EA regarding the purchase of an area of land at Owston Ferry and report back to the next Board meeting.

12. SOUTH STREET PUMPING STATION

12:1 Repairs to the Building

The Owston Ferry Pumping Engine Preservation Society had contacted the Chief Executive regarding the security and weather-tightness of the old pumping station building at Owston Ferry. The Society was established in 2007 and leased the building from the Board with the aim of preserving and interpreting the drainage heritage of the Isle of Axholme.

The Chief Executive stated that under the terms of the lease the Board was responsible for repairs and maintenance of the building and the Society for the repair and restoration of the pumping apparatus and decoration of the interior of the building.

The Board's Works Supervisor had inspected the building and reported on the quotations obtained for the repairs in the total sum of £1,940.69 plus painting of the woodwork.

The Chief Executive recommended that, although no provision had been made in the current year's estimates for this work, it should be undertaken before the winter to ensure that the building was water-tight.

RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with the repairs to South Street Pumping Station at a total cost not exceeding £2,500, the cost to be funded from balances.

12:2 Future Plans of the Society

The ultimate goal of the Society had been to find a suitable boiler to provide steam for the Marshall engine. The Chief Executive was pleased to report that a suitable boiler had now been acquired and the Society would be ready to proceed with the installation once it had been fully certified. The Society had prepared a plan detailing the way forward with a view to be generating steam in time for the 2014 open days.

Officers reported that a new boiler house could be erected on the outside of the existing building to house the new boiler or it could be located within the existing building. Cllr R. Allcock stated that the Society would prefer to house the boiler outside as it would be very noisy and more pipework would be required if it was located inside.

He confirmed that a new boiler house could be hidden away so as not to affect the appearance of the building. Cllr R. Allcock asked the Board to consider contributing £1,500 towards the building of the new boiler house.

Mr P. Cornish expressed concern about the Board paying for the new building. Mr R. Mason agreed, stating that the Board was told there would be little cost when the Society took over.

The Chairman asked the Board to consider supporting the work of the Society and contributing towards the new boiler house.

It was proposed by Cllr T. Barker and seconded by Cllr J. Briggs that the Board contribute £1,500 towards the new building. A vote was taken and there were two abstentions.

RESOLVED

That the Board contribute £1,500 towards the cost of erecting a new boiler house on the outside of the existing building.

13. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

13:1 Crowle Pumped Area

The Project Appraisal Report and grant approval application were due to be considered at the Environment Agency's Project Appraisal Board meeting on 25th September 2013, at which the Board's Officers would be present. Indications were that the application would be successful.

The application submitted was for a scheme costing £1,521,118; this included £50,288 for inflation and a £100,000 risk contingency. Works would be phased as follows:

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
Board	£347,143	£353,355	£104,693	54%
FDGiA	<sup>1</sup> £ 62,000	<sup>2</sup> £127,720	£526,206	45%

<sup>1</sup> FDGiA of £62,000 for 2013/14

<sup>2</sup> MTP request for 2014/15 of £124,000

The Engineer reported that there was one identified risk which had not yet been addressed - the condition of Bewcarrs sump for re-use. He stated that as the concrete above water level showed no evidence of deterioration it was reasonable to expect that it could be re-used at minimal cost, however, arrangements were being made to drain the sump so an inspection could be undertaken below the water level. The cost of this was estimated at £10,000 and a further report would be made to the Board once complete. The Engineer stated that it was unlikely that this would affect the scheme's viability and it would have minimal impact on the financing of the scheme.

Officers recommended that the following works would be undertaken during the current financial year subject to receipt of FDGiA:

Cleansing and environmental works on Keadby Warping Drain - Board's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO).

Widening and cleansing of Paupers Drain, Pumping Station to A161 Road Bridge - Contractors (Tender 1).

New pile wall and channel approach works to Paupers PS - Contractor (Tender 1).

'Underpinning' (lowering channel) A161 Paupers Drain Bridge - Contractor (Tender 1).

Deepening and widening of Paupers Drain, A161 Road Bridge to Wrays Drain Outfall - Board's DLO.

The Engineer stated that the results of Severn Trent Water's modelling of urban surface water and foul water sewers including the Wray's Drain had now been received. This had identified the following issues that required attention by the Board:

1. A potential foul sewer crossing of Wray's Drain culvert at 11 Lindum Grove, Crowle, requiring investigation by the Board and Severn Trent Water.
2. A recommendation that the Board and North Lincolnshire Council review the results of the Severn Trent Water modelling to ascertain if further modelling of Wray's Drain by the Board was necessary.

Officers confirmed that works to address these issues had commenced.

It was proposed by Cllr R. Allcock and seconded by Cllr J. Briggs that the Board proceed with the planned works for 2013/14.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That subject to grant approval the cost of the works plus the sump inspection costs be approved and that any overspend in the first year of up to 10% of the Board's in-year budget be met from reserves and recovered by revenue/loan in the following year.
- (b) That, subject to confirmation from the Environment Agency / DEFRA that it would not prejudice the grant aid approval process, works commence on Keadby Warping Drain and Paupers Drain Upstream of A161 Road Bridge (DLO Works) as soon as possible after completion of summer weedcutting.

#### 13:2 Cow Lane Pumping Station and Derrythorpe Pumping Station - Electrical Refurbishment

The Engineer reported on the three tenders received for the adjusted contract amounts in the sums of £59,800, £72,972 and £103,462.

The adjusted amounts had been approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the tender had, therefore, been awarded to Inter-Lec Ltd under delegated authority granted at the last Board meeting. The Engineer stated that the work would be completed within the approved budget of £60,000.

Work was now underway at Derrythorpe Pumping Station on the panel construction with full installation planned for mid-October. Installation at Cow Lane Pumping Station was planned for late November / early December 2013.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Briggs and seconded by Cllr R. Allcock that the actions be approved.

RESOLVED

That the awarding of the contract to Inter-Lec Ltd in the sum of £59,800 be approved.

13:3 Telemetry System

Telemetry had been installed at six of the Board's pumping stations which allowed information to be accessed via the internet and alarms to be sent to mobile telephones. The Engineer reported that work had commenced on the third phase of the installation which included Derrythorpe, Gringley, Scaftworth and Wiseton Pumping Stations; this would be completed by the end of December 2013. Officers confirmed that the installation and commissioning of all pumping stations was still on course to be completed during November 2014; three months ahead of the original planned contract end date.

The Engineer reported that the supplier had encountered a technical issue when testing the system which required new circuit boards to be installed. This would be undertaken at no extra cost to the Board by the end of January 2014.

The Works Supervisor gave a demonstration of the system.

Mr R.H. Brown enquired whether the pumping levels could be operated remotely and whether there was a need for a flood protection level. The Works Supervisor confirmed that it would be possible to change between summer and winter levels from the computer. He stated that there were two summer levels and one winter level and these were specific to each station but individual levels could be altered if necessary. The Chairman reassured Mr Brown that Officers also monitored the weather forecast and altered levels accordingly. The Engineer stated that the levels could not be set too low as this might cause damage to the pumps. The Engineer reported that the pumps were not operating remotely as yet but were still being controlled locally.

In response to Mr R. Mason, the Engineer confirmed that the installation of remote water level monitoring gauges further upstream would be considered at a later date. The installation of water level monitors throughout the area would also assist with predictive pumping.

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13:4 Pumping Plant and Ancillary Equipment Asset Management Strategy and Forward Capital Programme - Long Term Investment Plan

The Engineer confirmed that items resulting from the electrical inspection reports presented to the last Board meeting were being addressed on a priority basis.

Since the last Board meeting a fault had occurred at Greenholme Pumping Station causing damage to the pump, motor and panel for Pump Number 3. With the wet season approaching and to maintain the station's pumping capability, Officers had organised for emergency repair work to be carried out. The Engineer reported that the exact cost for the works was not yet known, however, based on historical data, he estimated this to be between £10,000 and £13,000.

RESOLVED

That emergency repair work be undertaken at Greenholme Pumping Station at a maximum cost of £13,000, the cost to be funded from balances.

13:5 Eastoft Main Parish Drain Bridge Replacement

The Engineer reported that of the four tenders invited for the replacement of the Board owned Eastoft Main Parish Drain Bridge, three had been returned in the sums of £23,920, £25,150 and £27,600. The tenders had been adjudicated by the Board's Officers and the contract awarded to J.E. Spence and Son Ltd in the sum of £23,920. Works were due to commence on 14th October 2013. The Engineer estimated the total cost of the works to be £30,000; this included fees for the Road Closure Order.

The works would be funded from the £50,000 allocated to Crowle Area Bridge Renewals in 2013.

RESOLVED

That the Officers' actions be approved.

14. RIVER TRENT CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ISLE OF AXHOLME STRATEGY

The Chief Executive reported that the main issue with the Strategy was standard of protection being recommended as the preferred option. He stated that the cost between the lowest standard of protection and the preferred option represented only 0.03% of the whole life cost of Strategy and the Environment Agency was, therefore, hopeful that this would be supported.

Cllr R. Allcock expressed concern that it was two years and the document had not yet been signed off.

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15. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Annual Review of health and safety was undertaken in August 2013 by Cope Safety Management Ltd who provided Health and Safety Services for the Board.

The Director of Operations reported that a new Health and Safety Policy had been prepared by Cope and all existing risk assessments, safe systems of work and method statements reviewed. These were being updated where necessary, and, if still applicable, would be included within the new Policy. Some additional safe systems of work were also being prepared. He stated that new Health and Safety handbooks had already been issued to all employees.

In response to Mr R. Mason, the Director of Operations confirmed that emergency relief staff would be given a health and safety briefing later in the year and would also be provided with the relevant documents. The Chief Executive emphasised that it was essential for the Board to ensure that health and safety training was kept up to date for employees and any volunteers.

The Chief Executive reported that a comparison of the existing Policies for all three Boards would shortly be undertaken to ensure that there was a consistent approach to health and safety across the Consortium.

The new Health and Safety Policy was available for members to view.

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## 16. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

### 16:1 Byelaw Applications

The following Byelaw consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

IONNB015-2013 Construction and removal of a temporary cofferdam, the replacement of an existing 200mm diameter outfall and the discharge of land drainage water from the adjoining land into the Board maintained Folly Drain in the parish of Belton at national grid reference SE 79438 - 09775.

IONNB016-2013 Construction of nine land drainage outfalls into the Board maintained Fishing Grounds and North End Common Drain Branch between national grid references SE 47701 - 14590 and SE 77063 - 14764 in the parish of Crowle.

IONNB017-2013 Replacement of an existing culvert on the Board maintained Union Lane Drain at national grid reference SE 82597 - 10168 in the parish of Althorpe.

IONNB018-2013 Installation of 18, 80mm diameter land drainage outfalls from O.S. field number 9245 into the Board maintained Boskerdyke Drain between national grid references SE 84769 - 14707 and SE 84788 - 41309 in the parish of Amcotts.

IONNB019-2013 Construction of six land drainage outfalls from O.S. field numbers 58 and 53b into the Board maintained Haldenby Drain at national grid references SE 81934 - 17276, SE 82186 - 16713, SE 81860 - 17047, SE 81766 - 17166, SE 82053 - 16795 and SE 82126 - 16744 in the parishes of Luddington and Haldenby.

IONNB023-2013 Culverting of 12 linear metres of the Board maintained Stealgoose Drain at national grid reference SE 79079 - 08737 in the parish of Belton.

All works would be carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's Engineer.

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16:2 Section 23 Applications

There had been no applications since the last Board meeting.

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16:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on four planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate observations had been made by officers under delegated authority. No objections had been raised.

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17. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

17:1 Board's Plan for Implementing the Eel Regulations 2009

The Engineer reported that a Plan for Implementing the Eel Regulations 2009 had been prepared which recommended:

Installing eel passage whenever capital works are undertaken to gravity discharges.

Installing fish friendly pumps or behavioural screens together with providing passage as pumping stations are replaced or undergo major refurbishment.

As stated at the last meeting, an application for an exemption to allow the measures to be installed within the Board's planned refurbishment strategy would be made.

The Engineer reported on the following techniques for screening:

Installation of Fish Friendly Pumps if appropriate. In some cases retrofitting may be possible, in other situations larger discharge pipes and perhaps changes to sump design may be required.

Behavioural Screen using strobe light and sound. This had been specified by the Environment Agency for an LMDB Pumping Station and evidence that the installation of screens does not adversely affect pump efficiency was awaited.

Physical screens. These consisted of very small mesh, perhaps as small as 6-8mm or smaller. The legislation states "mesh size" suggesting that physical screens are the only option. Screens of this size were considered "impractical" for IDB pumping stations and would not be used.

Officers stated that including these measures within the pumping stations refurbishment programme provided an efficient delivery mechanism and the longest potential life for the new or existing equipment. It would also make maximum use of any available grant funding. Grant aid for pumping stations refurbishment was available via Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) although rates of grant were dependant on the outcome measures and grant was not provided specifically for works relating to installation of eel/fish screens etc. The rate of grant would vary according to the assets protected and in most cases the Board would have to fund the majority of the work. The Engineer stated that this was an unsatisfactory situation as these measures were required as a result of a new legislative burden where, under normal circumstances, government funding would be provided.

#### RESOLVED

That the above principles for implementing the Eel Regulations 2009 be approved and a formal Plan be prepared for adoption by the Board.

#### 17:2 Environmental Stewardship

The paper on the Impacts on Environmental Stewardship Schemes of IDB Maintenance Activity tabled at the last meeting was based on the latest advice available from Natural England. The conclusion was that Environmental Stewardship options for grassy strips alongside Board maintained watercourses were incompatible with the Board's needs for regular access. This would place landowner's payments in jeopardy due to the Board's activities. The Engineer stated that Natural England had responded to the Board's concerns revising advice as follows:

Access for annual cutting of a ditch would not be regarded as "regular" per se.

The key issue for us is the impact of any such activity on land in an agri-environment option.

Buffer strips usually start where the cross-compliance 1m strip at the top of a watercourse bank ends.

In conclusion, providing cutting of bank tops was confined to the 1m cross-compliance strip, it should not jeopardise Environmental Stewardship scheme payments.

The Engineer had informed Natural England that maintenance work did not cause compaction or rutting unless it was very wet or the buffer strip was newly established. Natural England had replied stating that it was good if this meant that for the majority of the time there was little risk, and that it was important for the Board to avoid carrying out the work in either of these situations to ensure the buffer strip was properly protected from any potential damage.

Members understood that there remained a risk to Environmental Stewardship scheme payments if compaction occurred due to the Board's activities in a wet year and that, in these circumstances, landowners may need to apply for a derogation. Natural England had stated that "As a guide, we would not expect to see more than three derogations during the course of a five-year agreement".

As there remained a small risk that the Board's activities could jeopardise Environmental Stewardship scheme payments, Officers recommended that, wherever possible, work should be undertaken from the opposite bank in wet years and when newly seeded strips occur.

Officers further reported that this matter had been considered at a recent ADA Technical and Environmental Committee meeting and guidance was awaited but at present it was recommended that:

IDBs should be aware of the possible impact of damaging environmental strips during operational activity and liaise with landowners/occupiers to avoid problems, serving notices of entry as a matter of course or to provide warnings of possible issues.

Landowners/occupiers should be encouraged to identify where Environmental Strips are established adjacent to Board maintained watercourses.

ADA National was seeking to influence the new Environmental Stewardship Schemes that would emerge post CAP Reform to overcome these issues. Natural England's representative at ADA Technical and Environmental Committee, Mr R. Cathcart would also seek to provide greater clarity for inspectors under current inspection regimes.

RESOLVED

That the Board's maintenance operations be changed to ensure that, wherever possible, no work was undertaken on the 1m stewardship strip if there was a risk of damage to the land.

17:3 Warping Drain, Keadby

As agreed under agenda item 13:1, maintenance of this watercourse would commence after completion of the summer maintenance works. The watercourse would then be included within the Board's annual maintenance programme. It was noted that badgers were present along the raised banks and an exclusion licence would, therefore, need to be obtained before works could commence; mitigation measures may also be required.

The Engineer stated that investigations were, therefore, underway to ascertain whether the watercourse could be designated as a Reservoir.

The Warping Drain which was currently designated as a Local Wildlife Site had been included in the bid made by the Humberhead Partnership as an example of a potential Landscape Partner Scheme project. The Engineer confirmed that this application would not be allowed to jeopardise the water management function of the watercourse and may provide potential income for the Board through Environmental Stewardship on the adjacent land (approximately 12ha) which was owned by the Board but slowly being colonised by scrub. Officers reassured members that any changes would be brought back to the Board for approval and the conveyance and storage of the watercourse would be maintained.

RECEIVED

17:4 Barn Owls

Ten barn owl, four kestrel and two stock dove chicks were discovered when nest boxes were inspected in July and identification rings had been applied. The number of chicks was slightly less than last year but still noteworthy as barn owl breeding successes had been generally poor across Lincolnshire this year.

RECEIVED

17:5 Mother Drain Site of Special Scientific Interest - Nature Improvement Area Funds

A survey of invertebrate fauna had been undertaken on the Mother Drain and nineteen species of water beetle were recorded; this was almost half the number previously recorded at the site. The Engineer reported that of the species recorded only six were present in the tree shaded section of the drain; this lent support to the plans for tree clearing to increase biodiversity. Only four species of dragonflies and damselflies were recorded, however, this may be due to the surveys being undertaken later in the year.

The Engineer stated that Biological Monitoring Working Party (BMWP) and Average Score Per Taxon (ASPT) scores indicated that water quality at the site was good as the species inhabiting the site were generally associated with clean water.

One recommendation arising from the survey was that "Areas of Common Reed should be cleared from the central channel of the Mother Drain to slow succession and avoid choking of the watercourse", an outcome that the Board's management for flood risk was delivering.

The Chairman was concerned about the quality of the water in the Mother Drain and asked Officers to investigate.

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18. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)

The Chief Executive reported that one of the objectives of the ADA Business Plan was for ADA to become incorporated. The Board's Chief Executive had been appointed to chair a Committee to review how the new incorporated ADA would be set up and the Committee's recommendations would be presented to the Executive Committee on 16th October 2013 for consideration.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman confirmed they would be attending the ADA Conference on 13th November 2013 in London.

Those members attending the ADA Demonstration reported that it had been very informative.

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19. FLOOD INVESTIGATIONS

Miss H. O'Callaghan, Flood Risk Management Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) gave a short presentation on the role of the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and investigations being undertaken across the County as a result of the flooding in 2012 and 2013.

She highlighted that the Local Flood Risk Strategy had been produced in DRAFT by the LLFA and was now being circulated for comment and understood that the Board's Engineer was preparing a response. A further consultation would then follow before the Strategy was adopted.

Miss O'Callaghan reported that the storms of 23rd July 2013 had been extreme and the County had suffered significant flooding. Some 600 properties had suffered internal flooding and some small scale evacuations had been necessary. A multi-agency approach had been taken during the event and towards the flood investigation reports that were being undertaken.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN