

# TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board held at Collingham Memorial Hall and via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference on Thursday, 18th November 2021.

## Elected Members

\* Messrs J. Miller (Chairman)  
\* T.H Farr (Vice-Chairman)  
A. Arden  
\* D. Gash  
\* N.J. Greenhalgh  
\* T. Hawthorne  
R.J. Jackson  
D. Loates  
W.J. Staunton  
\* R. Warburton  
\* J. Love  
\* Vacancy

## \* *Present*

\* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)  
\* N. Kemble (Engineer)  
\* M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)  
\* A.J. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)  
\* Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)  
\* C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

## \* *In attendance*

## Nominated Members

Bassetlaw District Council  
\* Cllrs J. Ogle  
Mrs S. Fielding  
\* J. Naish  
Newark and Sherwood District Council  
\* Cllrs Mrs S. Michael  
I. Walker  
\* K. Walker  
\* Mrs L. Dales  
Rushcliffe Borough Council  
\* Cllrs K. Shaw  
\* Mrs C. Jefferys  
M. Gaunt  
Vacancy  
Gedling/Melton Borough Councils  
\* Mr J. Evens  
West Lindsey/North Kesteven District Councils  
\* Cllr P. Overton

## 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr W.J. Staunton and seconded by Mr T.H. Farr that Mr J. Miller be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr J. Miller be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

## 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr W. Staunton and seconded by Cllr Mrs C. Jefferys that Mr T.H. Farr be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr T.H. Farr be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. Arden, D. Loates and R.J. Jackson and Cllrs M. Gaunt and Mrs S. Fielding.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mrs J. Love declared an interest in Agenda item 20, Delegated Matters - Planning and Byelaws.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Mrs C. Jefferies wanted to discuss the importance of involving and interacting with schools both primary and secondary to educate children, as they were the future.

7. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 463 to 473)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 24th June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

8. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 474 to 477)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Board held on 8th September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

10. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chairman confirmed that the Board had given notice to the ADA Lincolnshire Branch Pay and Conditions Committee.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Consortium Committee Meetings held on the 12th August 2021 and the 28th October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and the resolutions adopted.

11. MEETINGS 2022

Proposed meeting dates were reported as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
27th January 2022	10.00 a.m.	Board (Approval of estimates and rate setting)
24th March 2022	10.00 a.m.	Board
26th May 2022	12.30 p.m.	Consortium Committee
16th June 2022	10.00 a.m.	Board (Approval of final accounts)
29th September 2022	10.00 a.m.	Board
27th October 2022	12.30 p.m.	Consortium Committee
24th November 2022	10.00 a.m.	Board (Annual General Meeting)

Other Dates

ADA Trent Branch - 24th February 2022

ADA Trent Branch AGM - 29th July 2022

Lincolnshire Show - 22nd and 23rd June 2022

ADA Annual Conference - November 2022 (date to be confirmed)

12. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager presented a health and safety report. He commented that the Consortium's Covid Risk Assessment had recently been reviewed and amended to facilitate the return of face-to-face Board meetings and the return of a small number of additional staff to the head office at Manby. Officers continued to follow the Government guidance and had retained certain additional measures put in place during lockdown to minimise the potential spread of the virus. Staff who had been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid were required to undertake a lateral flow test on a regular basis and would only be allowed to return to work without serving the period of self-isolation if they were fully vaccinated and had tested negative for the virus. Staff would also undertake a personal risk assessment with their line manager who only if satisfied that they were of minimal risk to the organisation, would authorise their return to work in proximity with others. Staff who were not fully vaccinated would be instructed to undertake the self-isolation period set out by the Government and would not return to work until they have served out the full period. Only when in receipt of a negative lateral flow or PCR test result following their period of self-isolation would they be allowed to return to work. He commented that the Trent Board was fortunate with low case levels.

The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that there had been no changes in legislation since the last meeting.

It was reported that there had been seven incidents since the last meeting. In respect of the reported incident at Trent, he confirmed that the vehicle involved was due for disposal.

A review of the Consortium's Health and Safety documentation was ongoing together with an annual audit programme. The audit had highlighted areas such as waste storage/disposal, electrical safety/compliance and site security. All issues had been recorded with the required remedial actions being implemented as a matter of urgency.

RECEIVED

13. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Finance Manager reported that drainage rates and special levies collected to date totalled 59.14%. Of the outstanding balance as at 31st March 2021, £548.70 had been recovered.

RECEIVED

14. FINANCE

14:1 Management Accounts for the period ending 30th September 2021

The Finance Manager presented the management accounts up to the 30th September 2021. The variance report showed that income was lower than anticipated for the six month period to 30th September 2021 resulting in a negative income variance of £94,008.00. The report showed that "Absorbed Income" expected from the "Own use of Plant" deployed in both operations and engineering projects was lower than estimated by £73,975.78. She explained that whilst the aim was to estimate this figure

accurately any variance in this area had no impact on the Board's cash position or the overall outturn, as any lower than expected income was matched by the lower than expected costs within the Maintenance and Development Expenditure and vice versa. Income received from consenting fees was higher than estimated, however, interest received on investments was a lower figure than estimated due to world markets.

In respect of expenditure the Finance Manager reported a positive variance of £71,553.23 in respect of Maintenance and Development Expenditure. The variance was mainly due to under-absorbed plant costs of £87,500 within Flailing and Weedcutting. This amount was matched by the lower than estimated income for own use of plant and had no effect on the Board's reserves. The external costs of meeting contractor expenditure within the Emergency Drain Repairs were higher than estimated by approximately £17,700. However, the use of external contractors for Pumping Station repairs was £11,800 lower than estimated.

The variance report for Supportive Expenditure showed a positive variance of £16,213.69. There had been an increase in insurance costs for liability, board and plant of £5,800.00. IT costs and legal fees were showing considerable underspend. Numerous repairs had been made to non-motorised vehicles, which had resulted in an overspend of this estimated budget. The estimated loan interest payable in the 21/22 year was lower than anticipated due to new loans not yet being drawn.

The Balance Sheet was presented, and it was reported that the expected outturn effecting the cash reserves was a negative balance of £6,520. The Board's Surplus Cash Reserve was 18.70% which was below the 30% policy.

A question was raised by Mr T. Farr in respect of the loans which were waiting to be drawn and whether this would have any effect on the interest rates originally agreed as market rates may increase. The Finance Manager confirmed that this may be a possibility, however, in respect of the loan not yet drawn for the Torksey refurbishment project she confirmed that funding was being sought by the Engineering Manager which would result in a reduced borrowing amount.

In respect of a question raised about Insurance costs she confirmed that it was very difficult to shop around for competitive quotations as the market was so specialised. However, a new possible provider had been suggested and this would be investigated for next year's policies.

RECEIVED

14:2 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 30th September 2021

It was reported that the Board currently had five accounts with a total balance of £1,379,783.89.

The Board had one loan with a balance outstanding of £577,319.73.

The Finance Manager sought the Board's approval to remove Mr D. Sisson from the Board's banking mandates and to add Mrs N. Hind and Mr N. Kemble to the mandates.

The Beverley Building Society had requested that the Board reduce their investment held to comply with the Society's new rules in respect of large balance holdings. The Finance Manager sought approval from the Board to remove the excess funds and place them in one of the Board's existing accounts which would exceed the Board's investment policy of £500,000 until a new provider could be found.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the removal of Mr D. Sisson from the Board's banking mandates and to addition of Mrs N. Hind and Mr N. Kemble be approved.
- (b) Approval to increase the investment holding within one of the Board's accounts to exceed £500,000 whilst a new provider was secured.

14:3 Conclusion of Audit

Members were pleased to note that the audit for the year ending 31st March 2021 had been concluded and an unqualified report received with matters of concern raised by the external auditor.

RECEIVED

14:4 Payments over £500

A schedule of payments over £500 totalling £1,083,574.29 was presented for Board approval.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of payments be approved.

15. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Senior Operations Manager reported that 80% of the summer weedcutting work had been completed amounting to approximately 520km of the Board's watercourses. A further 8km of unplanned weedcutting was also undertaken. Removal of fallen trees had been completed on the Springs Dyke, E.A. River Greet, Thurgarton Beck, Boundary Dyke, Mill Dam and Askham Drain. He confirmed that Officers had stopped making calls to landowners to arrange access and that machines were running through crop where necessary. Complaints and compensation were being monitored, however, there was a significant increase in performance compared with previous years.

A list of the proposed Winter Maintenance Works was presented to the Board in respect of reforming and regrading schemes for 2021/22. It was confirmed that 7% of the planned winter works had been completed to date. 20km of reforming and regrading of the watercourses including bank slips had been scheduled to be completed in the 2021/22 and 2023/24 financial years. He confirmed that 45% of the 2021/22 programme had been completed. In respect of construction works and access improvements 67% had been completed to date this included installation of gates and side dyke culverts, repairing headwalls and levelling bank tops to improve access. Rechargeable works had also been carried out on behalf of Newark and Sherwood District Council.

In respect of Plant and Equipment it was confirmed that a new Case tractor fitted with a Bomford 81-81 flail mower at a cost of £126,341 had been delivered in October and was working well in the Orston area. The Board's Massey Ferguson tractor and Bomford 81-81 flail mower had been taken in part exchange to the value of £28,000. A new Nissan Navara 4x4 had been delivered in August at a cost of £25,136.50 and the old Navara was sold for £3,029.63. Orders had been placed for an Ifor Williams trailer at a cost of £3,647 and the supply and fit of a new Hiab hoist at £10,369.97; the expected delivery was February 2022.

The Board previously approved the purchase of new tree shears, however, because of the bespoke nature of the tree shears, Officers had only been able to obtain one quotation from the three manufacturers approached due to stock shortages, which fell outside the Board's procurement policy that required three quotations. A quotation to supply the Habbig swivel

and rotating heavy duty trees shears at a cost of £13,865 against a budget of £18,000 was received. The delivery time was two weeks which would ensure they are received for the 21/22 winter season. Officers recommended the purchase of the Habbig tree shears to the Board.

Mrs J. Love raised an issue on the delay to works on the Kingston Brook particularly in the section from East Leake to Costock. She commented that the contractor being used by the Board was very busy and suggested that the Board should look for an additional contractor. In response to the question, the Operations Manager confirmed that extensive works had been carried out to the downstream section of the Brook to allow water to flow way. He had visited the site in question and confirmed that works were needed and that he would look at the possibility of using a second contractor.

In the absence of Mr R.J. Jackson, Mr T.H. Farr raised the issue of Tannery Drive at Lowdham. The Operations Manager confirmed that he had met with parties involved and the Board were preparing a formal plan. Further details would be covered under Item 16.

Mr T.H. Farr raised the issue of not contacting landowners before entering land in the weedcutting/flailing season. A discussion took place and on the benefits to the Board and the negative issues raised by landowners. The Chief Executive commented that contacting landowners had almost become a fulltime job during the cutting season, the decision to run through crop where necessary had given the DLO team more confidence on the ground. Complaints and compensation requests were being monitored.

Mr D. Gash commented that he had received a lot of complaints from local farmers who were not happy. In response the Operations Manager asked that they contact the office so that the complaints could be recorded. Mr Gash made the suggestion that perhaps a text message could be sent to landowners a couple of days before proposed weeding/flailing.

The Chairman commented that the Board had intended before Covid to arrange liaison meetings with ratepayers to discuss changes and concerns. He hoped these would be arranged early next year.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board purchase the Habbig Tree Shears at a cost of £13,865.00.

### 16. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Engineer reported to the Board on the following items.

#### 16:1 Egmanton Flood Storage Area - TV11012

Additional works at the Flood Storage Area to create a separate access onto the Board's land which would enable the sale of the land had been completed at a cost of £6,935. The scheme would now go over budget by £6,500. Officers recommended to the Board the transfer of £6,500 from the Asset Renewals Budget (TV21451).

#### RESOLVED

The Board approved the transfer of £6,500 from the Asset Renewals budget to the Egmanton scheme.

#### 16:2 Sutton on Trent - Cuckstool Pumping Station Upgrade (TV21505)

The Engineer reported that a viable and cost-effective solution for Sutton on Trent had been reached. At Cuckstool Pumping Station new pumps were to be installed from the

same family of pumps presently installed. This would increase their individual capacity from 500 l/s to 700l/s without changing the power supply, control panel, sump or discharge pipework. The pumps had been ordered at a cost of £70,074 for supply and installation and were due to be delivered in February 2022. Had the Environment Agency (EA) insisted on fish friendly pumps a new pumping station would have been required adding approximately £400,000 to the costs. The process of obtaining the EA derogation from fish friendly pumps to achieve this saving took nearly six months. The new pumps increased the normal capacity of the station from 1000 l/s to around 1,400 l/s, the actual output would depend on the head that the pumps pump against i.e. the level of the River Trent. Cuckstool catchment generally discharged by gravity, so the additional cost of operating the pumps would not be of great significance.

It had been proven That the inclusion of a flood embankment to the Bulham Lane Drain upstream of the old A1 would further benefit the village.

Modelling showed that modifications to Cuckstool Dyke had little benefit and certainly a low benefit cost ratio that would not support Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) funding from DEFRA. The main reason was that the scale of the storage to Cuckstool Dyke that would be necessary to have an impact was substantial and in addition to the capital cost of storage, compliance with the Reservoirs Act had a substantial impact on both on capital and operational costs and would leave the Board with a long-term ownership risk of a structure that requires a maintenance and inspection regime that would be highly specialised and expensive. Alternative flow routes to the Trent showed little flood mitigation benefit to justify the capital expenditure.

The concept was to accept the Cuckstool flows from Cuckstool Dyke and from Bulham Lane Drain, detain some of the Bulham Lane flows and provide pumps to accommodate the expected resulting flow. Some of the out of bank flows could be mitigated by constructing a training wall around 0.5m high to the south of the lower part of High Street and First Holme Lane. This was included in the overall concept for the works to improve the drainage in the village. Highways impact, general safety, planning and the Board's access would all need to be considered when engineering this defence.

The remaining work was targeted at late summer 2022 and would include a flood control structure on Bulham Lane Drain and local measures to keep flood flows on bank.

The total cost of the scheme was estimated at £450,000 which was planned to be funded, £25,000 Internal Drainage Board, £40,000 Nottinghamshire County Council, £235,000 FDGiA with £150,000 currently unfunded. The unfunded element had been expected to be provided by a Highland Water contribution, however, this funding route had been closed by the EA. Officers would now seek local levy funding. The planned IDB contribution was low because the Board had funded 100% of the emergency works completed in 2018.

A discussion took place on the withdrawal of the Highland Water and the possibility of finding funds from other sources.

Mr W.J. Staunton proposed that perhaps the Board and Newark and Sherwood District Council would consider funding the outstanding amount, if only whilst funds are sought. He commented that Sutton-on-Trent had flooded twice in 15 years and after the last flooding event he attended a resident's meeting as Chairman and that they were becoming dissatisfied with the progress made.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had also attended the meeting and agreed that this should be given consideration, suggesting that funds could be diverted from

another project whilst additional funding was sought, or the Board could use a loan or reserves. It was agreed that a report on the options available to fund the shortfall would be prepared and presented to the Board at the meeting in January for consideration.

RECEIVED

16:3 Thurgarton Village Flood Relief Scheme (TV20505)

The Engineer updated the Board on the progress of the Flood Relief Scheme commenting that a cost-effective viable option comprising of a flood embankment/storage area near to the Priory together with some local property protection measures had been identified. Roman remains had been found at the initial site identified, therefore an archaeological survey at two further sites upstream of the Priory were being considered. He confirmed that the next steps were to seek planning advice from Newark and Sherwood District Council, further archaeological investigation, a topographic survey, landowner agreement and then detailed design, documentation, tender and construction. It was confirmed that the majority of funding was in place for the scheme, £160,000 FDGIA, £65,000 Nottinghamshire County council, £160,000 Board, however Highland Water were expected to fund £150,000, with this source no longer available, alternative funding would be sought by Officers from Local Levy.

RECEIVED

16:4 Telemetry System Replacement (TV20303)

The Engineer confirmed that installation was complete with the system operational and in use. He commented that the system was proving to be very effective.

RECEIVED

16:5 North Scarle Flood Relief (TV21803)

It was confirmed that significant progress had been made on the scheme and that work was expected to be completed by the end of November.

RECEIVED

16:6 Torksey Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV16002)

Work on the interior of the station was due to commence in November. The wayleave agreement between the Board and Northern PowerGrid to allow unrestricted access to the transformer was now agreed. A date was awaited from Northern PowerGrid for energising the transformer and it was anticipated that this would take place in the first quarter of 2022.

RECEIVED

16:7 Lowdham Village Flooding

Concerns had been raised by the Lowdham Flood Action Group that surface water from Old Tannery Drive estate (which had historically flooded in the past affecting up to 130 properties) discharging into the Board's Car Dyke was not draining away efficiently. The Operations and Engineering teams were investigating and a report would be presented at a future meeting of the Board.

RECEIVED

16:8 South Clifton Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV19304)

Survey work was recently completed on the watercourses in this catchment and modelling would now be undertaken. A review of the available FDGIA funding was taking place as Officers had become aware of a small capacity fish friendly pump that would suit this application. Opening the catchment to the passage of fish and eels would attract more funding. Discussions were also in progress with the EA for the servicing of the flap valve on the gravity discharge which was currently not functioning.

RECEIVED

16:9 Marion Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV19303)

An outline business case was being prepared.

RECEIVED

17. SCHEDULE OF TRANSFER OF BUDGETS

The Finance Manager presented the proposed Schedule of Transfer of Budgets and added that the transfers were not coming from general reserves but existing schemes.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of budgets within schemes be approved.

18. ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Chief Executive confirmed that the EA had carried out a drone survey and produced a report on the issues identified on the Devon. He confirmed that the EA would be attending a liaison meeting at the ADA Trent Branch Meeting on the 24th November 2021 and this could be an opportunity for members to attend and to discuss first-hand the progress on the Devon.

The Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Board had withheld their precept payment to the EA and as a result a meeting was being arranged with Defra for their Board to attend to discuss the maintenance of EA main rivers.

The Chairman and Mr T. Farr both commented that this was a very important opportunity to meet with Defra.

RECEIVED

19. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Board noted the report on the Environment Agency's "Changes to the Eels Regulations Process"

RECEIVED

20. DELEGATED MATTERS – PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLL

20:1 Byelaw Applications

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

- TVIDB/LDC/2021/012 Construction of a surface water drainage outfall and run off into the Board's system on the Board maintained Winthorpe Airfield Drain at national grid reference 482325-355846 in the parish of Winthorpe.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/015 The crossing of a culvert within the Board maintained Seymour Drain with water pipelines at national grid reference 481650-378731 in the parish of Rampton.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/023 Diversion of the existing footpath to a closer proximity of the Board maintained Mother Drain at national grid reference 482146-381831 in the parish of North Leverton with Hablesthorpe.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/027 Installation of a temporary culvert into the Board maintained Brammersack Drain at national grid reference 477723-357392 in the parish of South Muskham.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/28 Replacement of two existing culverts in the Board maintained Cauntun Holme watercourse at national grid reference 475613-359914 and 475552-359868 in the parish of Cauntun
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/032 Replacement of an existing footbridge over the Board maintained Torksey Main Drain Pt 1 at national grid reference 484116-375562 in the parish of Kettlethorpe.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/033 Erection of fencing at a minimum distance of 6 metres from the top edge of the bank alongside the Board maintained Pingley-Carr Dyke at national grid reference 473074-353672 to 473542-353654 in the parish of Upton.

RECEIVED

20:2 Section 23 Applications

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

- TVIDB/LDC/2021/024 Installation of a liner into an existing culvert within a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 478825-366925 on the border between the parishes of Sutton on Trent and Grassthorpe.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/029 Repairs to the existing bridge on a riparian watercourse within the Board's area on the A616 Great North Road, Newark at national grid reference 479079-355371 in the parish of Newark.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/030 Installation of a liner into a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 449973-327082 in the parish of Kingston on Soar.

No applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

RECEIVED

20:3 Planning Applications

The Board had objected to one application since the last meeting. The application for four residential properties was in close proximity to the Board maintained Brotts Road Drain and did not comply with the Board's policy for development within nine metres of maintained watercourses. Advice had been offered to the developer and Officers were in discussions to seek a way forward.

The Engineer reported that 132 other planning applications had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments made.

RECEIVED

21. ADA TRENT BRANCH MEETING AND ANNUAL IDB/EA LIAISON MEETING

The Chief Executive invited all members to the ADA Trent Branch Meeting on the 24th November 2021. He confirmed there would be a site visit to Keady Pumping Station at 10.00am and the meeting would commence at 12 noon at the Doncaster Knight's Rugby Club. This meeting would be followed by the annual liaison meeting with the Environment Agency.

RECEIVED

22. VIRTUAL TOUR

Due to time constraints, it was decided to present the Virtual Tour at the Board Meeting on the 27th January 2022.

23. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2022/23

The Finance Manager presented the draft estimates for the Financial Year 2022/23 for consideration. Explaining that an increase in of 20% had been included for electricity costs, 3.35% for direct labour and salary costs to reflect a 2.5% wage increase and a 2.5% allowance for inflationary costs. Running costs of plant was expected to increase due to the removal of the rebated fuel exemption for red diesel. Fuel costs were expected to increase from £38,000 in 2021/22 to £66,850.00 in 2022/23 due to the removal of the rebated exemption for red diesel.

Due to the level of the Board's Reserves and the need to improve this position over time a rate increase of 6% was recommended in 2022/23, as reported in the 5-year plan presented last year. Should the appetite remain to increase the rate by 6% this would create a net deficit of £5,882.

A 6% rise would increase the rate from 10.420p/£ to £11.045 p/£ in Area A and from 1.954p/£ to 2.071 p/£ in Area B. The overall increase in income relating to Rates and Levy would be £116,193.00.

The Chief Executive commented that an efficiency review had commenced across the whole organisation and the Board's assets were also being re-valued with a view to realising assets where possible.

Cllr P. Overton commented that the proposal of the 6% increase had been agreed last year when discussing the 5 Year Plan.

Cllr Mrs S Michael commented that it was important for the Board to remain effective.

The estimates would be presented for full consideration and approval at the January Board meeting.

24. COMMITTEES

The possibility of reintroducing the Plant and Finance Committee, particularly to consider the estimates, would be discussed at the January Board meeting.

RECEIVED

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Cllr Mrs C. Jefferies wanted to discuss the importance of involving and interacting with schools both primary and secondary to educate children, as they were the future. Members discussed the benefits of such interaction and how the Board could facilitate this. One of the ADA workstreams was an Educational Resource Project to raise awareness of the work of the flood and water management sector in schools, incorporate relevant topics into the curriculum and ultimately attract interest in careers in the industry. Officers would update on this as it progressed with a view to engaging with local schools in the future.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN