

WITNAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Works Committee at a Meeting held at 47 Norfolk Street on Wednesday 26 April 2023

Present: P. Richardson (Chairman)

Members: P. Sedford A. Harrison
C. Crundham Mrs J. Williams
(Vice-Chairman) J. Woods
C. Hardy

In attendance: T. Ashton, R. Austin, Mrs S. Nichols (Grants Manager)

1. **APologies**

Apologies for non attendance were received from:

Members: J. Grant
A. East
R. Hall-Jones

2. **MAIN DRAIN CAPITAL DREDGING FEASIBILITY REPORT**

2.1 **Introduction**

The Chairman began by thanking the Chief Engineer for preparing a very comprehensive report which had been sent to all Board Members ahead of this committee meeting. He also welcomed Georgia Nichols to the meeting in her role as Capital Grants Manager for several Lincolnshire Councils.

2.2 **The need for dredging**

The Chief Engineer drew Members' attention to the £20 million, 15-year capital replacement programme and explained that dredging was not included in the programme. This project would not attract Delta grant in aid and therefore, it needed to be self-financed by the Board. He then went on to explain why this was the case.

The modelling work that the board had done using grant funding was shown in the report and in summary, this was done using an industry methodology and the outline of this flood extent was shown on maps in the report. The damages experienced during such an event produced baseline damage scenarios from which the benefit of doing any dredging work could be seen. By assuming dredging work of the Board's main drains, the flood extent reduced, but it was shown that no properties were better off as a result of the work, therefore granting aid was unavailable.

2.3 **The Board's options**

The Chief Engineer went on to explain that the district had an original design standard that should cope with events that have a 1 in 20-year chance of occurrence, with 0.8 metres of freeboard (distance from water level to bank top). The results of the modelling showed that dredging reduces flooding for events with this lower return period but not for higher return events. The modelling evidence showed that there would always be a flood risk for these events. With this context, the report went on to cover five options available to the Board, but three of these were discounted, leaving only two real options:

- option 3 to dredge the main drains (cost £4.6M)
- option 4 to dredge an average plus a 50% re-profile of drain banks (cost £5.4M)

A. Harrison – asked if there was a free board of 0.8 metres across the district and the Chief Engineer confirmed that this was largely the case.