

MINUTES of Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at the Village Club, Escrick, York

PRESENT

Cllr J Cattanach (In the Chair)
Mr J Hopwood
Mr D Dear
Mr K W Terry
Mr R A Bramley
Mr J Daniel
Mr I Ellwood
Mr R Bramley
Mr S Christian
Mr M Headley
Cllr M Baker
Cllr S Duckett
Dr H Ferguson
Cllr R W Bramley
Mr A Vevers
Mr M Henderson

The Clerk – Mr W Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

Member of the Public – Mr R Daniel

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Daniel to his first meeting of the Board. He is currently Flood Warden of Stillingfleet Parish Council and is likely to shortly become a North Yorkshire Nominated Member of the Board.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs K McSherry, Cllr C Vassie and Mr R Bramley.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman informed he was a Council nominated member of Selby IDB.

There were no further declarations of interest related to the items listed on the Agenda.

The Clerk informed Members that the Register of Members Interests was available for inspection and update as required.

MINUTES OF MEETING

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr J Daniel and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2025, a copy of which had been sent to all Members, be taken as read and approved and that they are forthwith signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that no matters were arising from the Minutes of the last meeting which were not covered on the Agenda.

MINUTES OF FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman presented the Minutes and recommendations of the Sub-Committee meeting held on 20th January 2026, a copy of which had been sent to all Members. These were summarised by the Clerk and considered page by page.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Transfer to Special Levy and Write-Off

Special Levy

The Clerk had circulated maps and a summary table with the Agenda for the Board's consideration.

The Sub-Committee UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED to the Main Board that the land should be transferred to Special Levy (North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council).

Amounts to be Written Off

An overall sum in drainage rates remaining on land transferred to Special Levy which cannot be collected amounts to £1.35 which is requested for consideration of writing off.

The Sub-Committee Members UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED to the Main Board the write-off of £1.35 in drainage rates along with the Clerk having delegated authority to write off annually a total sum up to and including £30.

Members of the meeting UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to ACCEPT the RECOMMENDATION of the Sub-Committee for both the transfer of land to Special Levy and the write-off of the overall sum of £1.35 in drainage rates along with the Clerk having delegated authority to write off annually a total sum up to and including £30.

Consortium Arrangements

Meeting Date

The Clerk confirmed the next meeting of the Consortium Management Committee will be held on 10th February 2026 at **Escrick & Deighton Club, 63 Main Street, Escrick, York, YO19 6LQ**. This is prior to the next meeting of the Board on 23rd June 2026. If any matters occur which need urgent attention directly by the Board, then a special meeting of the Board would be required prior to the start of the next financial year.

The Clerk informed the Sub-Committee that the Board's administration costs in this year's estimates are presented based on the costs of the Consortium Arrangements which will be discussed at the CMC annual meeting.

Sustaining the Board's Nominated Members on the CMC Committee

The Clerk asked the Sub-Committee if they wished to recommend two nominated Members for the meeting who attended last year who are the Chairman (Cllr J Cattanach) and Mr C Richardson. The two Members being willing to attend if they were available.

The Sub-Committee's RECOMMENDATION to the Board is to nominate both the Chairman (Cllr J Cattanach) and Mr C Richardson to attend the annual CMC Meeting.

The Chairman informing that he was now unable to attend because of a Council commitment. He therefore asked if anyone was prepared to be nominated as one of the Board representatives at this meeting.

Dr H Ferguson informed that he could be available to attend the meeting and was happy to be nominated.

Members thanked Dr H Ferguson for this offer to represent the Board and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to the above arrangements for Mr C Richardson and Dr H Ferguson to be the Board's two nominated Members for the Consortium Management Committee. The Members being given authority to act on behalf of the Board.

Acceptance of the Plant Replacement Programme Renewal for 2025/26 and 2026/27

The Sub-Committee Members had considered the plant replacement programme and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND the ACCEPTANCE of the plant replacement programme as circulated with the Agenda and approval to progress with its implementation.

Members of the meeting UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to ACCEPT the RECOMMENDATION of the Sub-Committee for plant replacement in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Budget 2026/2027 – Commercial in Confidence

The Sub-Committee Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the budget for 2026/27 to the Board.

Proposal for Laying of the Rate

The Sub-Committee Members had considered the Board's balances held along with the budget proposals and the rate at a sum of 5.61p for 2026/27, an increase of 3.89% over the rates of 2025/26. The increase being recommended by the Clerk.

The Sub-Committee Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of this rate to the Board.

Budget, Laying of the Rate and Special Levy

The Board considered the recommendations of the Sub-Committee for the budget, the Board's balances along with the Clerk's recommendation for a drainage rate at a sum of 5.61p for 2026/27 with an increase of 3.89% over the rates of 2025/26.

Cllr M Baker believed the Board could raise funds closer to 4.99% because of increasing costs and the forecast deficit. This reflecting the likely increase for council tax in North Yorkshire.

The Clerk informed that drainage rates can only be set to two decimal places so the closest rate would be 5.66p in £ an increase of 4.81%.

Cllr M Baker proposing a rate of 5.66p in £ raising a further £5,611 from rates and Special Levy as he was concerned that acceptance of the Clerk's recommended rate results in a forecasted deficit at the end of the period. The proposal however was not seconded.

The Chairman noted in the past the Board had not increased its drainage rates for several years. The more recent increases have been linked to rising costs, particularly for electricity and materials used. He further recognised a potential for other income into the Board which would result in a smaller deficit than forecast. The increased income potentially arising from larger Highland Water contributions and additional work for the Mining Remediation Authority. He therefore proposed the recommendation for the Sub-Committee for a drainage rate at a sum of 5.61p for 2026/27 with an increase of 3.89% over the rates of 2025/26.

Mr J Daniel seconding the proposal of the Chairman. Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED and APPROVED the Board to set a drainage rate for the sum of 5.61p in the £ for 2026/27.

The Board UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the proportion of their expenditure be raised by drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings by Special Levies on local billing Authorities are 16.81% and 83.19% respectively.

THAT the Drainage Board do hereby make a Drainage Rate for the purposes chargeable thereon assessed on the Annual Value of agricultural land and buildings subject to the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991 as hereunder set out that is to say: AN OCCUPIERS' rate assessed at 5.61p in the £ for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2027.

THAT the Drainage Board do hereby make a Special Levy assessed as hereunder, that is to say: A Special Levy chargeable to **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL** in the sum of £340,167.82 for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2027.

AND a Special Levy chargeable to **CITY OF YORK COUNCIL** in the sum of £183,474.39, for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2027.

AND that the Special Levies shall be payable in two equal instalments on the 1st May 2026 and 1st November 2026.

THAT the purposes for which the said Rate.

AND Special Levies are made and the amount in the £ for each of the purposes are as hereunder set out.
AND that the said Rate shall be payable on Demand.
AND that the seal of the Board be affixed on the said Rate and Special Levies accordingly.
AND that the Clerk be and is hereby authorised to take all necessary steps to demand and collect the said Rate.

<u>PURPOSES</u> under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for which the Rate mentioned is made.	<u>AMOUNT</u> of the Rate in the £. for the Occupiers' Rate.
---	---

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a) Expenses of Administration)
under this Act.) | |
| b) Works of maintenance under)
the said Act.) | 5.61p |
| c) Improvement of existing)
works under the said Act.) | |
| d) New works under the said Act.) | |
| e) Precept of The Environment)
Agency under the said Act.) | 5.61p |

Plant and Equipment Purchase

1) Purchase of Isuzu D Max and Sale/Part Exchange of Old One

The Sub-Committee Members considered the purchase of a replacement vehicle and the sale or part exchange of the old one based on the report provided. They UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND the purchase of an Isuzu D Max 4x4 Pickup and sale or part exchange of the old one.

2) Purchase of Agricultural Trailer

The Vice Chairman and Mr J Daniels believed that a trailer in the lower range of 10 to 14 ton would be the most suitable for usage with the proposed machine. He noted DRT Trailers and Bailey Trailers are good and reliable and a 10 ton would be roughly an appropriate size. It being noted less tipping capacity will be provided. They recommended finding a 10 ton or nearest match trailer from Bailey Trailers. The price not exceeding the quote with the dealer discount in the Sub-Committee report.

The Sub-Committee Members considered the purchase of the trailer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND the purchase of the trailer on the basis of the above advice of the Vice Chairman and Mr J Daniels.

3) Purchase of Ho-Pac Compactor Plate/Piling Hammer

The Sub-Committee Members considered the purchase of the hammer and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND the purchase of the Ho-Pac model which is in stock and has been shipped from America. This would be for immediate purchase (at the Vice Chairman's recommendation) because of the risk of tariff increases from America should another one be needed to be imported. This along with the fact the existing one is functioning ineffectively. The old hammer being kept for occasional usage as required.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to the RECOMMENDATIONS of the Sub-Committee regarding the purchase of these three items of equipment/plant.

Mining Remediation Authority (MRA) Asset Investment

The Sub-Committee Members had considered the proposed work refurbishing these pumping stations and the costs of the work being progressed and managed by the Board. The details of which are provided in the report on plant and budget considerations (last part).

The Clerk noting the potential risks of managing this work but highlighted the importance of progressing and delivering the work to sustain the assets. The MRA having restricted funding which if conducted externally because of the extra cost may not have progressed. It is also important the MRA fund the work to its completion when it is underway.

The Sub-Committee Members considered the costs of the work with the Board managing the contractors and proposed and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to RECOMMEND proceeding in the way as highlighted in the report.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to the RECOMMENDATION of the Sub-Committee also noting and accepting the technical and financial risks in this approach which the Board is required to manage.

Accounts for Confirmation

The Sub-Committee Members **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** that payment of these accounts be confirmed.

Members **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to the **RECOMMENDATION** of the Sub-Committee that the Board confirms payment of these accounts.

END OF FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chairman, seconded by Cllr S Duckett and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** by the Board that all the Finance Sub-Committee recommendations were accepted.

The Clerk thanking the Finance Sub-Committee for their consideration and recommendations provided for the Board's consideration.

MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk informed that he had obtained an update from the Environment Agency's Solicitor who had informed:

The Ouse and Derwent IDB Scheme was advertised in the Gazette last November by Defra, that being the last stage of consultation etc so I should expect the Statutory Instrument confirming the changes any time now.

I am not aware of any objections being raised to the scheme as a result of the final consultation.

The Clerk noted Defra on behalf of the Minister sign off a Statutory Instrument to reconstitute the Board with the reduced membership number. He however noted these documents are drafted by experienced legal professionals who have a reasonably large backlog of work which has caused delays.

Election Requirements

The Clerk reported following the reconstitution, the Board will be reformed which will amend the number of Members, an election is then expected to be held in the year after, up to 18 months later following the reconstitution.

Nominated Members

The Chairman informed he had been progressing seeking North Yorkshire's confirmation of nominated Members. This being aimed to reflect the reconstituted Board with the reduced membership number.

STAFF

Staff and Workforce Pay Increase

The Clerk informed that he had received information that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay increase for financial year 2026/27 as follows:

To apply a pay award to the 2025/26 salary rates of 5.0% (being the 12-month average of the average weekly earnings figure for the public sector published by the Office for National Statistics).

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 16th January 2026 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy -	£503,827.10	(100%)
(b) Direct Levy -	<u>£101,480.69</u>	(100%)
	<u>£605,307.79</u>	

The Clerk having a list of accounts with sums outstanding at the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that any outstanding rates will be pursued for payment and any remaining sums or credits at year-end will be included in next year's rate demands.

Drainage Rating Software

The Clerk reported that the Board is using the Rating Management Software (RMS) for producing rate demands and recording income. The system now fully functional but likely to be developed further in relation to formal email correspondence and further digital mapping functions for land management (GIS).

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report with the Agenda of the work carried out for Members consideration. This included an electronic web link to the Board's GIS maps showing the work being reported. He further ran through the items included in the report.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk advised that there have been no reportable incidents to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR) since the date of the last meeting. He further informed that progress was being made on updating the Board's Health and Safety Policy.

ADA NATIONAL

ADA Environment Day 2026

The Clerk reported that ADA were organising an Environment Day on 4th February 2026 at Park Farm, Thorney, Cambridgeshire. The Clerk will be attending on behalf of the Board.

ADA Conference 2026

The Clerk informed that ADA National are organising a Conference on 17th November 2026 at the Institute of Civil Engineers at 10 Great George Street, London, SW1.

ADA NORTHERN BRANCH

Summer Meeting/Visit

The Clerk informed a summer meeting/visit will be organised soon and likely to be in May/June 2026.

AGM

The Clerk informed this is likely to be in November 2026 but no venue has been decided upon.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported there was no correspondence of significance received since the date of the last meeting.

PLANS

The Clerk referred to the list of planning applications commented upon since the last meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

The Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided at the meeting on a laptop computer instead.

Mr D Dear was concerned about development in the Hull Road (A63) area relying on a 100mm pipe then a syphon and arriving at Newlands Pumping Station. He is having concerns as to how this will be managed.

The Clerk explained the Board's requirements for attenuating flows from new development and offered to look on the Board's response after the close of the meeting.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

CONSENTS

The Clerk referred to the list of consents granted since the last Meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

The Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided at the meeting on a laptop computer.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account with a credit balance of £680,476.85 with Barclays Bank as at the 16th January 2026.

The Board also having £200,000 in a Barclays Treasury Fixed Term Deposit Account which is achieving 2.22% gross per annum.

The Virgin Bank account has an additional credit balance of £389,353.78. The Board placing funds into a twelve-month deposit account which is achieving 4.0% gross per annum. It being noted the bank is very difficult to deal with regarding its deposit accounts and achieving its publicised interest rates. The arrangements being much worse for arranging deposits since the bank has changed from the Yorkshire Bank.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £101,507.12. The Board placing funds in a 95-day business saver account which is achieving 3.35% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £1,371,337.75.

The Clerk confirmed that Barclays Bank continue charging for its banking services.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was directed that the next Meeting of the Board is due to be held at the Escrick & Deighton Club, Escrick, York on **Tuesday 23rd June 2026** commencing at **10am**.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tuesday 20th October 2026 (now 13th October 2026)

Germany Beck Pumping Station

The Clerk informed that no further information had been provided to date for the Board's consideration regarding the proposed pumping station.

Biodiversity Action Plans

The Clerk informed the progression of updating the York Consortium Boards' Biodiversity Action Plan was still ongoing.

New Technical Administrative Support

The Clerk informed at the Consortium Management Committee it was agreed a new Consortium shared Technical Administrative Support Officer can be recruited who will be able to help in the development of the Consortium Boards' Biodiversity Action Plan.

Hemmingbrough and Surrounding Area Development

Mr K W Terry informed that the Barratt Development at Hemmingbrough, of 147 houses and a community centre, was approved to go ahead by the Secretary of State about three weeks ago.

The Chairman explained the situation with North Yorkshire Council with revised numbers of housing targets.

The Engineering Assistant informed that the development has been discussed with the developer some time ago. He informed he would seek further information.

Dr H Ferguson checking on the internet informing that the planning had been approved.

Himalayan Balsam Control Trial

Mr A Vevers informed he would very much like to be able to move forward with a trial in the Germany Beck catchment on Himalayan Balsam control. This using plant leaf treatment with rust fungus. He further asked if the Clerk had asked about the work with the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA).

The Clerk informed that he had contacted ADA and they were aware that trials were being carried out but had no direct involvement. He noted the Environment Agency more widely were very interested in controlling Himalayan Balsam. This along with the Wheldrake trials of this process still advancing. The outcome of which may give a local indication if the process is successful. He further noted that for the Board to consider contributing to a trial, a proposal would need to be made on how much funding would be required along with who are the other partners and what the project aimed to achieve. It appearing the cost for this trial is quite expensive.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.20am as there was no other business.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)