

# THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

[www.whitchurchwaterway.uk](http://www.whitchurchwaterway.uk)

Company No : 02280683 Charity Commission No : 701050



**MINUTES** of a Committee Meeting held on 26Jun2018 at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

**Present:**

Helen Brockman	(WWT Secretary)
Chris Chambers	(WWT Trustee / Director and Chairman)
Dave Smith	(WWT Trustee / Director)
Bob Sumner	(WWT Trustee / Director and Grounds Maintenance)
David Torrens	(WWT Trustee / Director and Webmaster)
David Aylwin	(Inland Waterways Association Representative)
Roger Birch	(Canal and River Trust Representative)

- 1) Apologies for Absence  
Peggy Mullock, Paul Radcliffe, Joan Crump, Ray Hatton
- 2) Matters Arising / Minutes of previous meeting (To sign as a true record)  
There was a correction to the minutes of the 22May2018 meeting - DT had said he would supply an example of the SC Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest form, NOT submit one.
- 3) Outstanding Actions (*where not covered under a separate item*)  
**CC and HB** were to work on a stripped down agenda for the next meeting. Not yet done.  
**CC** was to select some artefacts to be borrowed from the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum for a display in the Heritage Centre and liaise with the curator. Not yet done.  
PR has received confirmation of the shuttle bus for the boat rally together with outline approval for a collecting tin to be position on the bus. Additionally, dogs will be allowed and all this information will be included in advance notices (Done)  
HB was to send Hawk our solicitors' details to progress the Hawk land transfer (Done)
- 4) Website  
It was decided to drop the issue of the Volunteering page  
HB was to send new Membership Form and Privacy Policy for GDPR to DT for inclusion on the website (Done)  
DT was to publish the Membership Form and Privacy Policy on the website (Done)  
DT was to add a link to the Membership page under the top level "About The Trust" item (Done)
- 5) Arm Maintenance
  - a) Piling  
**DS** has a cordless angle grinder and will either use this to cut off the protruding bit of piling or lend it to Brian Crump to do that.  
**DS** will get 6 or so tyres to use as fenders on the piling  
**DS and BS** will attach the tyres to the piling using chains and either steel pegs or the tie bars of the piling  
**RB** will get a CRT engineer to look at the state of the piling round the winding hole. If access to the bank of the winding hole is required, either HB or Lindsay have a key to open the locked gate.
  - b) Dredging  
**PR** has emailed Liam Furby at Narrowboats Limited outlining our dredging requirements together with photos and is awaiting a response  
Roger Birch said he was unaware of CRT doing any of their own dredging. Land&Water will be dredging for CRT in Sep2018. They will be doing spot dredging from Willey Moor to Grindey Brook and at the winding hole next to Whitchurch Marina.  
**RB and CC** will see if dredging the Whitchurch Arm can be tied in with the CRT dredging program  
**RB** will ask Simon Harding of Land&Water to look into what's been agreed about disposal of

dredgings

- c) Towpath Improvements
  - i) A grant of £350 has been received from Whitchurch Town Council
  - ii) Tesco Bags of Help DS has obtained a rough price per square metre for laying hardcore and has broken the towpath up into areas which could be improved with a £1000, £2000 or £3000 grant
- d) Stop Plank Shelter

All parts have been got and have been painted, but some still need to be fixed together. Repairing the feet can be done as part of installing it. Between £100 and £200 of funding from the IWA will be sought.

**DT** to inform **RB** when all parts are fixed together

**RB** to come to Whitchurch Men in Shed at Centre North East (WMIS are usually there on Wed and Thu) to look at the shelter when all parts are fixed together
- e) **DT** was to replace panels in noticeboard  
Done. The new panels are much clearer to see through.
- f) Strimming

The bank of the towpath has become unacceptably overgrown as it has not yet been strimmed this year. It was decided that we should revert to having the strimming done 4 times a year (and the hedge cut once a year).

**JC** to mark the trees she planted on the winding hole to avoid them being strimmed
- 6) Basin Project
  - a) **HB** to arrange a date for meeting with WTC / SC re land transfer
  - b) Nobridge - Cutting grass / weed spraying / wildflower area / picnic area

The board and kickrail to retain the bark chippings in the picnic area have been installed. It slightly obstructs opening one of the litter bins.  
The wildflower area has been seeded.  
The grassed areas have been cut / strimmed once, with another cut expected soon.  
There is an infestation of horsetail next to the pavement on Chemistry, which will be sprayed

**BS** to trim the kickrail slightly to allow the bin to be opened
  - c) Despite the dry weather, wellies are needed to go onto the area behind the bungalows  
**BS** to monitor the water level in the wet area behind the bungalows and report at the next meeting
  - d) **DS** will adjust the picnic table levels - he has obtained a new driver to undo the bolts, which have proved hard to undo
  - e) Bins
    - i) Shaun Burkey (SC Country Parks & Sites) has raised the matter with Victoria Doran (Environmental Maintenance manager for NE Shropshire). **HB** has chased this - still a/w an answer
    - ii) Ray Hatton has informed Peggy Mullock of the recent efforts to get the bins emptied
    - iii) **HB** had asked CRT's Duncan Davenport whether CRT could help with emptying the bins but had received no response.

**RB** will ask the CRT person looking after that area now (Ian Derby)

**HB** to send info on where the bins are to **RB**
  - f) Path Users / Boat Traffic / Moorings surveys on 1Aug / 2Aug / the following week  
It is important that we do these surveys. **DA** kindly offered to help as he will be in Whitchurch to attend a Rally meeting  
**HB** to arrange survey rotas
- 7) Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 10Jun2018 were circulated.  
Ray Hatton had sent a report to the meeting as he was unable to be present :  
Since the bank statement date (and prep of the accounts) there have been payments into the bank from Lindsay: £25 donation + £100 mooring + £20.93 towpath box +£325.36 bric-a-brac/café = **£471.29 total**. Also via Lindsay **£350** from Whitchurch Town Council a grant collected by Chris.  
Ray sent a part-signed cheque for £54 for a banner supplied by Signs of the Times and one for £25 for our Shropshire Union Canal Society subscription and another which was used for Lindsay's expenses.

- a) The WWT Equality and Diversity Policy was reviewed and signed.
- 8) Any Other Business
- a) 2 intruders wearing wellies had been seen on the offside bank of the Arm, although apparently without any malicious intent
- b) HB suggested that sprinkling some grass seed as the area between the 2 bridges was levelled might reduce future weed growth there, but BS was unconvinced
- c) Land transfer of 10m buffer strip on Hawk housing estate - we have received notification from Hawk that the contract will need to contain clauses covering an obligation on the part of WWT to maintain the strip on a regular basis, with the ability for the management company responsible for maintaining the estate areas to be able to undertake any necessary works at the expense of WWT in the event that WWT fail to and that the alternative is that this strip is transferred to the management company for the estate.  
WWT need to understand what maintenance would need to be undertaken before agreeing to the land transfer. We had understood during the planning process from the Water Vole Method Statement that the buffer strip was designated as a dense scrub buffer to provide water vole habitat and to prevent ingress from the residential units to the canal and had expected it to require little or no maintenance. It is marked on the approved Landscaping Plan as "Area of rough damp meadow - Thistles / Nettles / Willow Herb / Umbels".  
**HB** to ask Hawk what maintenance would be required  
**HB** to ask Shropshire Council Planning what maintenance would be required
- d) CC had taken maps to TSB for use in their fundraising, but TSB say they are not aware of having received them  
**CC** will sort this out with the TSB, including giving them an A3 poster
- e) Fundraising - DA outlined the success that has been achieved with fundraising for the Montgomery Canal and emphasised how fundraising is more successful when tied to a particular project. Promotional material at Grindley Brook had raised £139 in one month. An online Donate button, JustGiving and LocalGiving had been used, of which LocalGiving provided the highest yield per donated pound to the charity . DA offered to help but not to lead fundraising.  
**CC** to ask for CRT's permission to set up WWT fundraising material at Grindley Brook Locks
- 9) Date(s) of next meeting(s)

1100 Tue 24Jul2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD  
 1100 Tue 28Aug2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD  
 1100 Tue 25Sep2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD  
 1100 Tue 23Oct2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD