

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

Company No : 02280683 Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on 08Jan2019 at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

Present:

Chris Chambers	(WWT Trustee / Director and Chairman)
Ray Hatton	(WWT Trustee/ Outgoing Treasurer)
Dave Torrens	(WWT Trustee/ Incoming Treasurer)
Paul Radcliffe	(WWT Trustee / Director)
Dave Smith	(WWT Trustee / Director)
Bob Sumner	(WWT Trustee / Director and Grounds Maintenance)

- 1) Apologies for Absence
Helen Brockman, Joan Crump, David Aylwin, Peggy Mullock, Lizzie Scott
- 2) Matters Arising / Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without correction.
- 3) Any Other Business
 - a) It was decided that PR was to liaise with LS over Festival publicity.
- 4) Chair's Report
 - a) Dredging
CC to obtain a quotation for dredging in the area approaching Chemistry Bridge including placing of dredged materials behind Nicospan vertical bank protection system. This will obviate the need for dredgings to be removed off site. The Nicospan will run on the off side between the memorial garden and the winding hole and was considered to be the most environmentally friendly solution available. It was agreed that costings up to £25,000 could be agreed by CC without further referral to The Committee.

Note that after recent depth measurements taken by DA, it is no longer considered necessary to dredge the entire canal arm. Measurements around 1.4m were commonly observed around the winding hole which is considered to be a good depth.
 - b) Patrons, Life Presidents, Sponsors
There has been no progress on this issue.
- 5) The proposed date of the next AGM is Wednesday 17 April 2019.
- 6) DS to investigate the implications of converting the status of The Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and present at next meeting for discussion.
- 7) DT has kindly offered to take up the position of Treasurer from RH. The Committee expressed its thanks to RH for his valuable long term contribution including the most meticulous and systematic financial record keeping.
- 8) JC has sadly stepped down from the Committee having made an unparalleled contribution to fundraising and the managing of the membership list, for which The Committee expressed sincere gratitude. A replacement Membership Secretary could not be agreed but it was noted that an individual needed to be identified as a matter of urgency. It was felt that some of the duties of the Membership Secretary could be taken over by the Treasurer with the support of a suitable IT system and DT was to investigate this initially by discussing the feasibility with JC. This would potentially release a future Membership Secretary to focus on new member recruitment.

The proposal that membership payments should be exclusively made through BACS/ Direct Debit

should be added to the agenda for the AGM after further discussion at the next committee meeting.

9) Website/ Facebook

- a) The point was discussed that all Committee and wider members should be encouraged to post on the Facebook page.
- b) DT has made the required updates to the website with details of the Canal Festival.

10) No progress was reported on the possible use of Dropbox for file sharing.

11) Canal Festival 2019

- a) PR has had preliminary conversations with the Town Council (Zoe Dean: Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk) and the Festival now appears on the Council's "What's on?" list, published on their website.
- b) There will be further discussions about the use of Shropshire Council's land for the rally and three-way discussions about the transfer of this land to the ownership of Whitchurch Town Council (i.e. Whitchurch and Shropshire Councils plus the Festival Steering Group). The idea of the Canal "Gateway" will also be discussed with the appropriate council.

12) Arm Maintenance

- a) New bench remains work in progress.
- b) Stop plan shelter maintenance remains work in progress.
- c) CC has confirmed stop planks have been located and will be delivered from Ellesmere Boatyard. Lindsay Green of Chemistry Farm has been informed of their likely delivery to site.
- d) BS has completed gravel path to long term moorings and is looking to extend the path to winding hole.
- e) DS has ordered skip, it was delivered to site and filled with dredgings by Sunday morning volunteers and has now been removed from site.
- f) Conversations have been held by DS and BS with Richard and Rachel Cartwright of 20 Waterside Meadow. Richard would like to mow a strip approximately 2m wide parallel with the canal in front of the Estate Fencing. This will stop incursion of nettles and brambles into the gardens of 16-20 Waterside Meadow. The remainder of the Hawk land down towards the canal will be left wild. It seems a reasonable compromise and Richard has assured us that he has no interest in a "land grab". Given that the Hawk land, except for this 2m strip, will be left wild, a fence marking the boundary between the Hawk land and ours would serve no real purpose, although the barbed wire fence does serve as a tangible reminder of the boundary. Richard pointed out that some of the land to the West of the oak tree in front of his property had been strimmed by the WWT contractor whilst maintaining the winding hole bank. This is partly Hawk land and includes part of the designated wildlife buffer so should not be strimmed in the future.
- g) Painting the steel frame and trimmed edges of the OSB of the noticeboard by the winding hole is on the "To Do" list.
- h) Permanent fixing of protective tyres on the piling around the winding hole is on the "To Do" list.

13) Treasurer's Report

RH presented the Treasurer's Report and noted that net income from last year's boat rally was very positive but appealed that all expenses associated with the 2019 Canal Festival be submitted in a timely manner.

14) Outstanding Actions (where not covered under a separate item)

These were not reviewed at the meeting.

CC to send HB a couple of paragraphs to include in a newsletter.

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. It has not been possible to progress this at the moment.

CC was to send a sample project management proforma to HB

HB was to produce a similar project management proforma for WWT to use (CC and PR should be contacts on it)

HB has now collected Bill Young's files and process to select what to keep is underway.

DA to provide information about A boards to CC for WWT fundraising material at Grindley Brook Locks.

RH was to investigate whether a local solicitor would be willing to act as our registered address.

15) Date(s) of next meeting(s)

The dates and times of the forthcoming meetings (at The Wheatsheaf, Green End) are:

Tue 12 Feb	1930
Tue 12 Mar	1930
Tue 9 Apr	1930
Tue 14 May	1930