

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

Company No : 02280683 Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on Tue 14May2019 at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

Present: Helen Brockman (WWT Secretary)
Dave Smith (WWT Trustee / Director and Membership Secretary)
Bob Sumner (WWT Trustee / Director and Grounds Maintenance)
David Torrens (WWT Trustee / Director and Webmaster)
David Aylwin

- 1) Apologies for Absence
Ray Hatton, Chris Chambers, Peggy Mullock, Paul Radcliffe (CC and PR had sent updates to the meeting)
The meeting was inquorate, so no decisions could be made.
DS chaired the meeting
- 2) Matters Arising / Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3) Arm Maintenance
 - a) Towpath Upgrade
PR was to talk to an operator about levelling between the 2 bridges in the next couple of weeks and to ask him about the towpath at the same time.
PR had reported that this was still in hand.
 - b) Maintenance Boat
When inspected, it was discovered that the entire bottom was missing from the flat that had been offered.
CC is to contact a trailer company regarding the cost of re-bottoming the flat.
 - c) Boundary Fence
BS felt that this should be the top priority.
The land between the existing boundary fence and the water is too narrow to walk along at some points. BS and DS put forward the view that changing the boundary (with the agreement of the owners of the adjacent land) so that there was about a metre usable width all along could provide a solution. This would gain a small amount of land in some places, and lose it in others.
DS to talk to CC about this
HB to send DS contact details for the Chair of the Waterfront View residents' management company
 - d) Noticeboard Repairs
DT was to paint the frame and trimmed edges of the OSB of the noticeboard by the winding hole.
Done.
 - e) Stop Plank Shelter
DT was to do minor repairs to the stop plank shelter and paint it. Done.
 - f) Length of Stop Planks
DT had measured the width of the narrows on the Whitchurch Arm. The stop planks provided by CRT are about 8 ft long, and appear to be about 3ft shorter than the gap at the narrows. They do not seem to be the right width for the narrows on the Grindley Brook side of the lift bridge either.
- 4) Facebook
We still do not have access to our Facebook page.
BS will mention it to the person who last had control of it, as he sometimes sees her on the Arm.
- 5) Canal Festival

- a) **VIPs and Emergency Services**
PR was to invite VIPs. Invitations have been sent out and the Emergency Services have been notified.
- b) **Canal Festival Policy**
PR and David Aylwin were to liaise to create a Canal Festival Policy. DA will contact PR about setting up a meeting to progress this.
- c) **Hurleston Locks**
 Many boats, including several trading boats, will need to ascend Hurleston Locks to get to the Festival, and it would be disastrous for the Festival if it was not usable at the time. There is an ongoing history of problems with the width of the bottom lock, and further damage to it occurred recently when a boat that had got stuck in it was extracted from it.
 CC had reported that "Regarding Hurleston, there is no way that CRT will shut the Locks before the end of the commercial season. It might involve an overnight closure to keep things working but the prospect of being sued by the Hire Companies for restraint of business etc will ensure that some access will be maintained until the end of September at least."
 PR would like official definitive confirmation that Hurleston will be open.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report**
- a) **CRT Mooring Fees** - It was decided at the last meeting that we will wait for CRT to contact us, since we don't know who to contact following the CRT re-organisation. £5000 has been put aside to cover fees due to CRT, leaving £2108 in the current account.
 DT and DS have tried to move £5000 into the savings account, however this proved to be more difficult than anticipated.
 HB pointed out that, contractually, the onus is on WWT to report mooring fees received.
- b) **TSB Signatories** - Awaiting confirmation that CC is now a signatory
 Not yet confirmed.
- 7) **Country Park Land Transfer to WTC**
HB was to respond to Shaun Burkey and Nicki Young that WWT do not want to own the land. Done.
 HB to chase status of the land transfer.
- 8) **TSB Local Charity Partner** - Sponsored walk in Snowdonia 18/19May needs to be publicised.
HB was to get details from the TSB and get them on the website and FB (under a private Facebook ID). Done.
- 9) **Bringing the Canal into Town**
 Concern was expressed that WWT had a reputation for proposing infeasible projects (eg the inclined plane), which was damaging to its credibility. DT estimated that there was a rise of about 4m between his house and the old gas works site. Another issue was where the money for maintenance would come from - there was doubt that town traders would be willing to cover it. At present, we are fully occupied with maintaining the existing Arm, however it was felt that a big exciting project would attract more people to get involved, and that some canal restorations which seemed impossible have indeed have actually happened, albeit slowly. We currently do not have anyone with the skills and vision who is willing to push such a project forward.
 DT suggested that something with a "green" agenda, such as providing canoeing facilities, might chime better with the flavour of current funding. Canoes don't mind changing levels.
 It was suggested that a dedicated meeting to discuss this subject might be a good idea.
- 10) **Outstanding Actions (*where not covered under a separate item*)**
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. A/w reply from Heritage Centre.
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)
- 11) **Date(s) of next meeting(s)**
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| Tue 11Jun | 1930 | The Wheatsheaf |
| Tue 9Jul | 1930 | The Wheatsheaf |
| Tue 13Aug | 1930 | The Wheatsheaf |
| Tue 10Sep | 1930 | The Wheatsheaf |
| Tue 8Oct | 1930 | The Wheatsheaf |