

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

Company No : 02280683 Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on 10Mar2020 at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

Present:

Helen Brockman	(WWT Secretary)
Chris Chambers	(WWT Trustee / Director and Chairman)
Stan Davis	(Advising on Towpath Upgrade)
Ray Hatton	(WWT Trustee / Director)
Kevin Hudson	(Waterside Meadow PMC Representative)
Peggy Mullock	(Shropshire Council Representative)
Paul Radcliffe	(WWT Trustee / Director and Canal Festival Organiser)
Dave Smith	(WWT Trustee / Director and Membership Secretary)
Bob Sumner	(WWT Trustee / Director and Grounds Maintenance)
David Torrens	(WWT Trustee / Director and Webmaster and Treasurer)

- 1) Apologies for Absence
None
- 2) Matters Arising / Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3) Chair's Report
 - a) Towpath Upgrade
There has been an on-site meeting with PR, BS, CC and SD. The plan is to resurface all the narrow part of the towpath, widening the path, and replacing the grass verge with stone, with the surface of the path slightly higher where it meets the bank. SD recommends hiring a digger, 2 dumpers (a 2-ton dumper and a 3-ton dumper) and a whacker plate at a cost per week of £285, £140 and £55 respectively. It is anticipated that around 100 tones of stone will be needed, and that the work will be done the second week in April, taking around a week to complete and completing one section before moving on to the next.
A budget of up to £3000 was agreed for this work
PR will organise getting diversion signs
BS will ask for permission to dump the arisings from the grass verge in a nearby field, and, if permission is forthcoming, will get permission in writing
 - b) Rebottoming of flat
CC was awaiting an estimate – a/w the new boating season to get under way.
 - c) Offside Boundary Fence
There have been several meetings of the Waterfront View residents, who have decided that they are not willing for the line of the fence between their land and ours to be re-aligned, but will allow the land in the wildlife buffer zone to revert to scrub.
HB to write a letter to the Waterside Meadow PMC in response, saying that we will erect a new fence along the line of the existing fence
 - d) Aldi – Future Proposals
It seems that Aldi may be trying to put moorings in for boaters to stop and shop there. A gap has been left in their new planting. During the planning process, CRT had refused permission for the Aldi site to have moorings because it is on a winding hole. WWT has an interest in keeping the winding hole usable since it is used by longer boats from the Grindley Brook direction for accessing the Whitchurch Arm.

PM will discuss the matter with her SC colleagues Mark Barrow, Director of Place and Philip Molyneux

- 4) AGM 2020
 - a) The AGM will be at 1930 on Wed 25Mar2020. There will be a talk after the formal AGM by Chris Smith "Whitchurch as the Centre of the Cheshire Cheese Industry", with cheese samples to taste.
HB to put an item in the Whitchurch Herald inviting the public to the AGM
- 5) Arm Maintenance
 - a) BS has a new volunteer (Norman Evans) helping him now. They have done some tree cutting on the offside using the new strimmer. Hiring a chipper to chop up the arisings from strimming so they can be disposed of in situ would be useful. Our volunteers should be trained in using such equipment, particularly wrt public safety
BS to get a buoyancy aid for the new volunteer (not a gas operated one)
BS to find out the cost of hiring a chipper
DS to find courses on strimmer and chipper operation for those using such equipment to go on
 - b) CRT review of signage at the junction is happening now
- 6) Canal Festival
 - a) There has been a meeting of the Canal Festival Subcommittee. The theme will be VE Day and DT will be the Harbourmaster and organise boat and land-based bookings and take the fees. A few bookings have been received already, and the catering for the Boaters' Supper has been booked.
PR to contact Roger Birch about the trip boat
- 7) Alternatives docs presented at EGM on 12Nov2019
CC and **DT** are in discussion on this
- 8) Treasurer's Report
The 2019 Year End Accounts were circulated and accepted.
HB to submit the accounts to Companies House and the Charity Commission to get our filings up to date prior to our anticipated reapplication to become a CIO
- 9) Renegotiation of our Moorings Agreement with CRT
No action atm
- 10) Free trees from The Woodland Trust
The committee decide not to pursue this, since we don't need many trees and would prefer to get larger ones which are more likely to survive.
- 11) Outstanding Actions (*where not covered under a separate item*)
None
- 12) Any Other Business
None
- 13) Date(s) of next meeting(s)
AGM 1930 Wed 25Mar (The Chester Suite, The Dodington Lodge)
1930 Tue 14Apr venue The Wheatsheaf
1930 Tue 12May venue The Wheatsheaf
1930 Tue 9Jun venue The Wheatsheaf