

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

of a Company No : 02280683 Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES
Committee
Meeting

held on 19th August 2015 at the Dodington Lodge Hotel

Present: Helen Brockman
Joan Crump
Ray Hatton
Bob Sumner
David Torrens
Bill Young

- 1. Apologies for Absence** Wendy Capelle, Peggy Mullock
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
Were signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising from that Meeting**
None.
- 4. Basin and RDPE (Rural Development Programme England Tourism : Call in the Marches) Funding**
Planning permission for the extension and new basin expires on 18Nov2016. Either work needs to start before then or the planning permission needs to be extended. Shropshire Council have asserted their ownership of 2 pieces of council-owned land which appear to have been encroached upon. **BY** would seek information on project management costs and **DT** and **BY** would come up with a plan for preliminary works for the extension and new basin to cost an amount suitable for the RDPE funding on offer (this is a maximum of £100K and can cover up to 80% of the project cost). The remainder could be met from fundraising and/or up to 20K from WWT's funds. The works might include items such as levelling, improving paths, demarcating lines and boundaries, building steps down from bridges and complying with planning permission conditions which must be met before work on the extension and basin can start. The plan needs to be available in time for **JC** or **RH** to attend a funding surgery in Ludlow with Sam Hine on 10Sep.
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
£20 had been mistakenly allocated as advertising but should have been allocated as Membership subscriptions. The accounts were accepted subject to this amendment. To be corrected.
- 6. Fulgoni Development**
HB and DT had met with the developers, who have provided their current plan diagram and an impression of what the view from the Whitchurch Arm would be like. Their proposal is that they would provide an access lane which WWT could use from the development and would like to have a pipe draining rainwater from the development into the Whitchurch Arm. The committee felt that while the access lane would not be useful for accessing the offside moorings after the extension is built, it might be of use for maintenance work to the offside bank. It is still unclear what agreements and licences would need to exist between CRT, the developers and WWT for this discharge to occur, and whether CRT would permit it anyway and therefore the committee felt it would be premature to make any decision. WC has offered to set up a meeting with WWT to explain CRT's position and the developers have offered to attend a meeting with WWT to describe their plans. HB is awaiting a discussion with a CRT Utilities Surveyor, Philippa Walker.
- 7. New Noticeboard**
BY proposed getting 3 magnetic noticeboards of 741mm x 696mm x 28mm from displaydevelopments.co.uk, costing £396 incl VAT, to be fitted on to the existing posts, which was approved. **BY** to progress.
- 8. Report and Pictures of Boat Rally**
BY would take some pictures and send a report to the Whitchurch Herald, the Shroppie Fly and Canal Boat (who have requested an article on the Boat Rally)
- 9. Appointment of Dave Smith as a Committee Member**
Dave Smith was appointed as a new Committee Member until the next AGM by unanimous vote.

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His appointment will have to be voted on at the next AGM

10. Constitution and Number of Committee Members

We need more Committee Members and if there are no more by the next meeting, will consider holding an EGM to amend the minimum number of Committee Members and number needed to make a quorum in the WWT constitution.

11. Arm Maintenance - Repairs to Chemistry Bridge in Dave Smith's garden

Now that the shed has been demolished, the state of the part of Chemistry Bridge previously covered by the shed is apparent. Dave has kindly offered to arrange to have the damage professionally repaired at his own expense, which was appreciated by the committee.

12. Arm Maintenance - Cracked Pane on Existing Noticeboard

A pane on the newest noticeboard is badly cracked, presumably by vandalism. **BY** to progress repairs.

13. Arm Maintenance – Replacement of bench nearest the lift bridge

One of the supports is broken and the seat slats are in poor condition. A recycled plastic “wood” bench would make a good replacement, and is likely to cost around £400 – 500. The old bench is longer than some of the other benches on the arm and the length of the existing concrete base should be considered when arranging a new bench. **BY** and **BS** will try to find sponsors to contribute to a new bench.

14. Website Revision

DT has been studying recommendations for good website design and is aiming at having a menu down the left hand side which would appear the same on every webpage. When a prototype website with actual information on each page is ready, he would like people who are not familiar with WWT to test how easily they can find information.

15. Buoyancy Aids for Arm Maintenance

Since Bob and Arthur are often working close to water, they should be provided with buoyancy aids to wear. The non-bulky self inflating kind are likely to cost £60-70 each. Lindsay Green to purchase.

16. Increase in Mooring Fees

The mooring rates for long term moorings (£20 per foot pa) and winter moorings (£7.50 per foot per winter season) have remained static since 2010. It was decided that increasing the rates by an amount equal to inflation since 2010 would be appropriate in order to avoid an effective decrease in real terms. This would mean £24 per foot pa and £9 per foot per winter season respectively.

17. President / Patron / Sponsor

There was a discussion on whether Owen Paterson should be invited to take an honorary title with WWT, and it was thought that this would have to be put to the membership. No conclusion was reached.

18. Publicising that WWT maintain the Whitchurch Arm as Volunteers

It was felt that many people are probably unaware that the Whitchurch Arm is funded and maintained by WWT as a voluntary organisation and that we should do more to make people aware of that

19. Date of next meeting

1930 Wed 28th October 2015 Dodington Lodge Hotel