

# 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 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Dodington Lodge Hotel

**Present:** Helen Brockman  
Wendy Capelle (Canal and River Trust)  
Joan Crump  
Ticker Harris (Whitchurch Town Council)  
Ray Hatton  
Terry O'Neill (Whitchurch Town Council)  
Bob Sumner  
David Torrens  
Bill Young

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Dave Smith (unwell). Peggy Mullock (Shropshire Council) had arrived early and then left again as there did not appear to have been a reservation for the meeting room.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising from that Meeting**

None.

**4. Date for 2016 AGM**

The 2016 AGM will be at 1930 on Wed 16Mar at The Dodington Lodge Hotel  
DT, DS and HB will be eligible for election / re-election if willing. There will be a proposal to amend the WWT constitution to reduce the minimum number of trustees to 5 and the quorum for a committee meeting to 4.

**5. Old Canal Photos**

WWT are interested in acquiring copies of any photos / postcards local people may have which show the canal as it used to be.

**BY** will ask Dave Roberts if he has any

**RH** will ask WHAG members and put a notice in the Whitchurch Herald asking if anyone has any

**BY** will revamp the notice asking for old photos on the noticeboard, adding who to contact

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The accounts were accepted and a cheque for CRT's share of mooring fees was presented to WC.

**7. 3<sup>rd</sup> Signatory For Cheques**

**DT** will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> signatory

**8. Stage One Outline Funding Application**

We will put an expected increase of 30% in the number of towpath visitors for Stage One and an expected 2-fold increase in the number of visiting boats after the basin is built.

The term "marina" can remain in the application.

We will put that we will conduct towpath users and boat traffic surveys of at least 6 hours duration in Aug 2016 and Aug 2017. The surveys will be similar to those done in 2014 and will be done at the same time of year and on the same days of the week so that the results will be comparable with the 2014 results, which can be used as a baseline. The dates will be Wed 3Aug and Thu 4Aug in 2016 and Wed 2Aug and Thu 3Aug in 2017.

There is more work to be done on costs.

The standard needed for paths to be "accessible" was discussed, with some helpful input from TH and TON, and it was thought that we should aim for 1.5m wide paths of a higher standard than simply MOT Type 1.

Planting of herbs in the bank adopted by Spruce Up Sandstone to be included.

Sam Hine plans to finalise the application by 1700 Thu 29Oct and have WWT confirm it is OK by

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1000 Fri 30Oct so it can be submitted. A decision on outline applications is expected to be made within 40 working days (say around Christmas), when successful applicants will be invited to submit a final application. Decisions on final applications are then made within 40 working days, so it seems unlikely that funding could be secured much before around the beginning of April.

## 9. Stage One

While it would be ideal to complete the new basin project all in one go, it has so far proved impossible to secure a grant for the required amount, or even find large enough grants which we could apply for and so the committee is pursuing a phased approach which could be implemented with smaller amounts of funding instead in preference to not progressing at all.

There was a lengthy debate about whether we should spend WWT's own funds to get professional plans now for a phased approach. The conclusion was that much though we are loath to spend hard won WWT funds which might otherwise come from a grant, we need to get a qualified person to do some work now because none of us is a qualified civil engineer and :

We need to publish something fairly soon as we want members and involved parties to hear from us first.

We don't want to publish something that has not been snagged by a qualified civil engineer and if there are things which won't work we need to know sooner rather than later

We don't currently have any professional plans or illustrations to publish or discuss with anyone

We need a phased plan of the whole project to get a licence from Shropshire Council to allow us to work on their land and to be able to explore planning conditions which have to be met before work can start

We need professional help in exploring options for the path / dumping soil with the Environment Agency wrt the flood extent

We want to start work before Nov2016 before planning permission (which can no longer be extended) expires. Knowing the way time has a habit of passing, and the time some things take to happen, we need to get going on the above or that date will be missed even if the funding application is successful

The civil engineers we have used so far (Platt White) are already familiar with the whole project and have given us very reasonable rates in the past

If we don't get the funding, we will at least have a fairly well cooked plan for the whole project which would enable it to proceed in cheaper stages rather than just doing the whole thing all at once

**DT** will work with Platt White to develop a phased plan

**HB** will write a letter to Shropshire Council Planning to confirm what will be accepted as "having started work".

**DT** will review documents from the Environment Agency and, with Platt White's help, explore options for the path and raising soil levels between the basin site and Greenfields Way.

**HB** to pursue the issue of eventual land ownership between Shropshire Council and WWT

**HB** to start a dialogue with relevant community groups including Whitchurch Walkers, Shropshire Way, Sandstone Trail, Shropshire Wildlife, Spruce Up Sandstone

Stage One plans will be discussed with neighbours and publicised to WWT members, local press, waterway magazines and on the WWT website when suitable plans and drawings are available. This will unfortunately miss the copy deadline for the next issue of Shroppie Fly (30Oct).

**HB** to send a newsletter to members when plans / drawings are available

**HB** to check with Sam re publicising the funder

**ALL** We need to take lots of "before" photos of every conceivable part of the site from various angles, including one of the muddy bit of the path when it is soggy. Any offers ?

## 10. Arm Maintenance

Whitchurch Town Council donated a previously used but good looking and sturdy bench which WWT have installed to replace the one by the lift bridge which was damaged beyond repair or usability. Our thanks to both Arthur Skit and the Town Council for arranging this.

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BY had organised the new noticeboard which was paid for by donations from the IWA and Whitchurch Town Council and it is now in place by the steps on the arm.

**BY** to organise replacing the cracked pane in the noticeboard by the winding hole.

- 11.** A local travel company had enquired about having an ad on the noticeboard, and possibly supporting us by volunteering.

**JC** to offer an ad at our standard rates if there is room for it on the noticeboards

(Post meeting note from Secretary – could also ask if they would like to donate a prize or help at the Boat Rally)

**12. Informational Items**

Lindsay Green has written a report of the 2015 Boat Rally for the Shroppie Fly and Cuttings. She has photos of the Boat Rally, which she will send with a report for the WWT website.

Lindsay holds a key for the barrier in the car park, which might be needed if any tall vehicles need to enter it.

**13. Date of next meeting**

1930 Wed 9th December at the Dodington Lodge Hotel