

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

Company No : 02280683 Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on 27Feb2018 at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

Present:

Helen Brockman	(WWT Secretary)
Chris Chambers	(WWT Trustee / Director and Chairman)
Joan Crump	(WWT Trustee / Director and Membership Secretary)
Ray Hatton	(WWT Trustee / Director and Treasurer)
Paul Radcliffe	(WWT Trustee / Director)
Dave Smith	(WWT Trustee / Director)
Bob Sumner	(WWT Trustee / Director and Grounds Maintenance)
David Torrens	(WWT Trustee / Director and Webmaster)
Sue Garner	
Liza Willis	

- 1) Apologies for Absence
Roger Birch (CRT)
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting
"RH would like to step down as Treasurer" should have read "RH will be stepping down as Treasurer"
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3) Outstanding Actions Completed
 - a) 3 places have been booked at IWA/CRT Restoration Workshop Wolverhampton Sat 14Apr2018 (for HB, CC, DS).
 - b) Land & Water visit will be 1100 Thu 8Mar (meet in the free car park)
- 4) Outstanding Actions Not Yet Complete
 - a) CRT Work on stonework / brickwork at New Mills Lift Bridge No 31
HB's efforts to find out what effect the CRT Stoppage starting 29Jan would have on the Whitchurch Arm had only yielded a firm answer 3 days before it started.
CC to find out about further work CRT will be carrying out to the surrounds of the lift bridge (copings above water level and possible obstruction)
 - b) Disposal of Matter removed from the canal
An on-site meeting on 23Feb had concluded that composting was not a viable option because matter from the canal is regarded as potentially toxic and would require testing. Having a skip in the car park or on the adjacent grass as and when required would be the best way to deal with this. A large skip with no doors would be £180 + VAT or a smaller skip with doors would be £170 + VAT, for up to 2 months. The larger one would have a closable roof but would have to be filled from the top whereas the smaller one would be easier to fill (through its doors).
DS to arrange a skip
 - c) Funding Application to Whitchurch Town Council for Towpath Improvements
CC will submit the application this week
 - d) **JC** has it in hand to progress planting native plants on the bank of the winding hole in Mar/Apr
 - e) Review of CRT's Percentage of Mooring Fees Received by WWT
RH will meet John Denver, a consultant for CRT at 1000 on Mon 12Mar. Other Committee Members are welcome to come.
RB was to explore what the basis for the 40% of mooring fees paid to CRT is and whether any reduction might be possible
- 5) Work Parties

BS was disappointed that only Ken and Lindsay had come to help at the regular work party on 25Feb (regular work parties on the Arm are from 1030 on the last Sun of the month)

DT will pursue publicising work parties on the website and Facebook

PR will co-ordinate work parties

PR to send HB information about work parties to be included in a newsletter to be sent out to members with the AGM Notice

6) New Treasurer

HB to include a request for a new Treasurer in the AGM Notice

ALL Appoint a new Treasurer

7) AGM at 1930 on Wed 11Apr2018 Dodington Lodge

CC had been unable to arrange a speaker from the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust for a presentation after the formal AGM, but it could be arranged for another date. We will have "Open Forum - Past, Present and Future - a celebration of what's been achieved and aspirations for the future of the community" instead

CC to provide an A4 page-ish Management Report to HB, including a piece about Stage One

CC as a Trustee to be elected to send a paragraph or two on his background to HB

JC to provide Membership List to HB

RH to provide 2017 Year End Accounts and Independent Examiner's name and address to HB

8) Treasurer's Report

The accounts to date were circulated. Unusually, there were no unrepresented cheques.

9) Boat Rally meeting at 1100 Wed 14Mar at Chemistry Farm. Refreshments provided.

PR and **CC** (and 3 potential volunteers from Frankton) will go to this.

10) Whitchurch Library Event 1000 -1400 Thu 22Mar and Fri 23Mar

HB to tell the organisers we will attend both days

BS to co-ordinate (Lindsay has said she can do a slot Thu 1000 - 1200)

11) Basin Project

a) Report on WRG site visit

HB to chase Mike Palmer for his promised write-up of his thoughts

Some key points of advice were :

i) We should use contractors for earth moving and a specialist contractor for sheet piling - WRG don't do these

ii) The bit between the 2 bridges could be done by WRG, but MP advised not to do it until we are sure the rest of the canal extension and basin will go ahead

iii) We should use a contractor to do the rest of the canal extension and basin all in one go

iv) We should check how deep the Meadowcroft culvert is and how deep the piling between the 2 bridges goes by digging test pits

v) If changing our civil engineers, we should get the technical information the current one has first

b) PR suggested having a Superintendent of Works who would propose works that volunteer groups could undertake. This would encompass the basin project, routine maintenance, and dredging.

c) Gateway Project

We need a write-up of this we can present at the AGM.

HB to ask our SC councillors if there is a contact we can talk to in SC to pursue transfer of the land to WWT

d) Landscaping

A quotation for laying bark chippings in the picnic area, weed treatment, creating a wildflower area and planting 4 trees has been received from Nobridge.

Nobridge advised that, as the picnic area is on a slope, bark chippings are likely to migrate down the slope, and a retaining board (and a 2ft high kick rail to prevent the board being a trip hazard) would be needed where the picnic area meets the path. A gap would be left in the board and kick rail to provide an entrance where the desire line is evident, but bark chippings are likely to move down to the path at this gap (could a staggered board and kick rail alleviate that ?). Some raking to re-distribute the bark chippings would be needed from time to time, and maybe occasional renewal of them.

PR to seek alternative ideas for the picnic area and a quote from Springwood Nurseries

HB to send PR info on what Nobridge had quoted for

- e) Further levelling of the picnic tables
DS will investigate on Sun 4Feb
(By this point, RH, PR and BS had left the meeting)
- f) Emptying bins in the picnic area
 - i) Short Term
 As a temporary measure until more permanent arrangements can be made, BS will empty the 2 remaining bins in the picnic area weekly in return for £10 a week
 - ii) Long Term
 Yet to be resolved
- 12) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
HB had requested RH, JC and Lindsay to note their current computer setup and practice, and was awaiting their response
HB to progress GDPR
- 13) Daniel Adamson Waterways Restoration Showcase Liverpool 13/14Oct 2018
 We will not do a presentation at this event. HB should remain the contact for the moment. We need to sort out posters, boards etc
HB to confirm that WWT will attend on those dates, but not do a presentation
- 14) Arm Maintenance
 - a) Towpath seems to be caving in again opposite winding hole. Has already been filled in 2/3 times
 We will ask Land & Water for their opinion at their site visit at 1100 Thu 8Mar
 This may be addressed as part of the towpath improvements project
 - b) Progress with Stop Plank Shelter
 The shelter is in WMIS premises at Centre North East. It is unclear how exactly the hinged roof fitted on the lower part
 - c) Repairs to Chemistry Bridge
JC will look for a bricklayer to fix the damaged parapet
- 15) Any Other Business
 - a) CRT User Forum at 1400 Tue 17Apr at Nantwich Town Football Club
CC will attend
 - b) Tesco Bags of Help
 Planting some trees around the basin site might be a possible project for this, as they do not need to be planted until the autumn
- 16) Date(s) of next meeting(s)
 - 1100 Tue 27Mar2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD
 - AGM 1930 Wed11Apr2018 Private room at The Dodington Lodge, Dodington, Whitchurch SY13 1EN
 - 1100 Tue 24Apr2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD
 - 1100 Tue 22May2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD
 - 1100 Tue 26Jun2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD
 - 1100 Tue 24Jul2018 Private room at The Wheatsheaf, 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD