

# THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

[www.whitchurchwaterway.uk](http://www.whitchurchwaterway.uk)

Charity Commission No : 701050



**MINUTES** of a Committee Meeting held on 18Apr2023 at The Wheatsheaf (back room of), 19 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

## **Present:**

Helen Brockman	(WWT Secretary)
Mark Lacey	(WWT Trustee)
Kath Oldham	(WWT Trustee and Membership Secretary)
Hilary Seward	(WWT Trustee)
Bernice Tasker	(WWT Trustee)
Simon Tasker	(WWT Trustee)
David Torrens	(WWT Trustee and Treasurer)

- 1) Apologies for Absence  
None
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting / Matters Arising  
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3) Annual Accounts for 2022  
It is estimated that we we will have to pay CRT £2,932 as their 40% of mooring fees WWT received in 2022. This is paid because we have an agreement with them for the connection of the Whitchurch Arm to the rest of the canal network and they supply and manage the canal water. A Profit and Loss account for 2022 was circulated, showing income exceeding expenditure by over £5,000. In 2022 we accumulated more funds than usual, mostly due to having had a good Canal Festival.
- 4) Proposed Budget 2023  
A Draft Budget produced by ML was circulated
- 5) Objectives for 2023  
Proposed Objectives for 2023 are :
  - a) Events - to operate a safe, enjoyable and profitable Canal Festival
  - b) Trustees - to acheive a smooth handover of Treasurer and Festival Co-ordinator roles (**DT** to **ST** and **ML** to **BT**)
  - c) Marketing - to design and implement a new advertising and membership strategy (**KO** and **HS**)
  - d) Development - to continue to explore a possible Community Asset Transfer of the Country Park (**ML**)
  - e) Environment - to obtain grant funding to develop an overall wildlife plan for canal, Country Park and Shropshire Wildlife Trust land (**ML**)
  - f) Canal and River Trust - to resolve moorings agreement renegotiations (**ML**)
  - g) To develop cheap methods to extract silt and debris from the canal (**ML** and **DT**)
  - h) To repair / redesign the end of the canal next to Chemistry Bridge with a view to getting the work done during autumn 2023
  - i) Financial - to increase surplus from 5K to 10K by increasing income and reducing expenditure (**ALL**)
- 6) Canal Festival Update, Actions and Next Meeting - ML  
We have 5 boats and 2 stalls booked so far. HS knows a few people who wanted to book. **HS** to email ML with details of people who want to book boats /stalls at the Festival  
**ML**, **HS** and **BT** will take flyers to give out at Norbury Canal Festival (29Apr - 1May)  
**BT** will get a quote for a climbing wall at our Canal Festival

The next Canal Festival meeting will be 1800 Tue 30May at The Wheatsheaf

7) Canal Maintenance

For repairing the end of the canal, the possibility of getting engineering advice and the need to involve CRT was discussed.

8) Brief Updates

a) CRT agreement

We are inching forward with this. ML has prodded the matter with CRT (again) and is awaiting an answer.

b) Country Park

ML has spoken to Whitchurch Town Council prior to a Council meeting about taking on the Country Park. WTC seem supportive now that they are not being asked to make any financial contribution and are willing to attend any related meetings and have offered the Civic Centre as a venue.

Shaun Burkey of Shropshire Council's Outdoor Recreation section, who are currently responsible for the Country Park, has arranged a meeting on 27Apr at the Civic Centre and had mentioned the idea of WWT paying Shropshire Wildlife the £750 pa they currently get from SC for maintaining the Greenfields Nature Reserve. WWT, the Heritage Centre, Meres and Mosses, Shropshire Wildlife and Whitchurch Walkers will be invited to the meeting.

**ML** to try to get a map of the Country Park from SC

9) Canal Extension Long Term Planning

Not much progress is likely this year. Fact finding is needed and we need to decide how to approach to making a decision.

10) Date and venue for AGM

We are obliged by our Constitution to hold an AGM within 15 months of the previous AGM (which was 13Sep2022) ie by 13Dec2023.

The AGM will be 1800 Tue 24Oct2023 at the Wheatsheaf

11) Any Other Business

**DT, KO, ST** and **HB** will meet and produce a list of the top 4 things which should be improved on the WWT website

**HB** will arrange a meeting for this

12) Date(s) of next meeting(s)

Canal Festival Meeting 1800 Tue 30May2023 at The Wheatsheaf

WWT Committee Meeting Tue 11Jul2023 at The Wheatsheaf

WWT AGM 1800 Tue 24Oct2023 at The Wheatsheaf