

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on 8Feb2022 at The Archibald Worthington Club, Whitchurch

Present:

Helen Brockman	(WWT Secretary)
Chris Chambers	(WWT Trustee and Chairman)
Ray Hatton	(WWT Trustee)
Mark Lacey	(Canal Festival Organiser)
Kath Oldham	(WWT Trustee and Membership Secretary)
Paul Radcliffe	(WWT Trustee)
Hilary Seward	(WWT Trustee)
Giles (Dugga) Sullivan	(Whitchurch Town Council Representative)
Bob Sumner	(WWT Trustee and Grounds Maintenance)
David Torrens	(WWT Trustee and Webmaster and Treasurer)

- 1) Apologies for Absence
Peggy Mullock, Patrick Hudson
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting / Matters Arising
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3) Election of Mark Lacey as a Trustee
Mark Lacey was unanimously elected as a Trustee.

HS arrived at this point.

- 4) Mark Lacey will be taking over the organisation of the Canal Festival, due to Paul Radcliffe having been diagnosed with a medical condition which means that he will not be taking an active part in WWT until further notice
- 5) WWT Website and Email
 - a) WWT website administration and content
Joe Sheldon of Audlem Printers has produced a first proof of a new website
 - b) Email administration
DT will continue to administer email
 - c) Social Media / Facebook
Joe has also started creating a Facebook page
JS to send links for website and Facebook
JS to quote for one-off setup costs and ongoing costs
HB to circulate details of the first proof website and Facebook page so all can look at them
- 6) It was voted to work towards an announcement on what WWT's next development project(s) will be. It was thought that more work needs to be done before a sensible target date can be set .
HB to make the next development project a standing item on the agenda
- 7) Conversion to a CIO - Changing the name on the Land Registry title for the Whitchurch Arm to show WWT as a CIO rather than a charitable company
A solicitor had advised that "as part of our regulatory requirements if we were to act for the charity, there would be some considerable red tape in terms of ID and ID verification required. This would have the effect of changing a simple job into something more time consuming and as such the time spent and therefore the costs would increase. My estimate would be between £450 - £550 plus VAT, plus a £20 Land Reg Fee and £10 ID Verification fee per individual. My honest advice would therefore be, you might wish to try to complete the application yourself. "

A value for the land in the title for the Whitchurch Arm needs to be stated on the application form.

HB to send the application to the Land Registry, stating a value of £1600

8) Canal Festival (Sat 3rd and Sun 4th Sep 2022)

There has been 1 meeting of the Canal Festival Sub-Committee and another is planned for 22Feb.

ML is putting together a co-ordination document

A budget of £1000 for spending on the festival was agreed, although more could be allocated with Committee approval.

9) Membership

KO has started as Membership Secretary and reported that there are 123 memberships and 162 members, excluding Corporate Members. The subscriptions from 36 memberships are significantly overdue.

KO will send new members a letter, stating their Membership Number, and will not be issuing membership cards.

KO will contact memberships with overdue subscriptions to resolve them

10) Re-Negotiation of Moorings Agreement with CRT

PR has asked CRT what other mooring plans are available to us (inc whether we have the option to pay 9% of potential mooring fees, and, if so, how much they would assess that to be)

PR had reported through the secretary that he is still awaiting a reply from CRT, and was happy to continue pursuing this

11) Protection of Route for Canal Restoration into Town

The adopted Core Strategy (2006-2026) including policy CS17- Environmental Networks and the draft Local Plan (2016-2038) have been received from Shropshire Council and circulated.

While these do show the area as green space, there is no specific mention of the route for canal restoration, as there was in the Local Plan for Whitchurch Urban Parish 2000-2011, where it was shown as "Canal Restoration (T4)"

HB has emailed and phoned SC (Eddie West) to ask if protection of the route can be shown in the Local Plan, with no result as yet.

HB to continue trying and see if Peggy Mullock can help get an answer

12) The future of the Country Park and the role of the WWT

Although Whitchurch Town Council did not want to take over the Whitchurch Waterways Country Park, Shropshire Council still wish to divest themselves of it.

It was agreed that WWT will try to get ownership of it if they can.

GS will arrange for CC to speak at the next full Whitchurch Town Council meeting

CC will talk to the Shropshire Council Director of Place

HB to send KO a map of where the Country Park is

13) Treasurer's Report

DT passed round up to date accounts. He has a cheque book now.

HS to give DT her signed forms to become a 2nd online signatory for the TSB

ML suggested, and it was agreed, that we should keep a ring-fenced fund for maintenance to put money aside for occasional expensive items such as dredging and piling

a) COIF Signatories

HB to remove this from the agenda

14) Arm Maintenance

a) Sunken place on towpath

CC has tried to get suitable pellets from CRT with no success so far

CC to try again or find out where such pellets can be obtained

b) Improving Path to Long Term Moorings

CC will get a quote for this

c) BS said there is a pile of dredged matter under Chemistry Bridge which needs to be disposed of and proposed putting it in the wet area of the Country Park.

We expect to be getting a raft which a boat in the long term moorings currently has, which may help dispose of such matter behind the Nicospan on the offside

d) Dead and dangerous tree overhanging the Canal at the Junction

CC is a/w a response from CRT

e) Vegetation Management

PR had reported through the secretary that he is happy to carry on with getting a quote for this from Martins

- HB** and **PR** to produce a map of the areas which need to be maintained
- f) Whitchurch Town Council were paying Newmans £2000 a year to do work we were unaware of on the Whitchurch Arm. We are waiting to hear what Peggy Mullock has discovered.
HB to ask GS what is happening about this (GS had left the meeting by this time)
- g) Offside Boundary Fence next to Waterfront View estate
Carried forward
- h) Signage for Boats about how to enter and leave the Whitchurch Arm from/to the Grindley Brook direction
JS showed a proposed sign he has designed
One of the arrows needs to have its direction reversed. The bridge number of the New Mills lift bridge was thought to be 31, not 33. It would be good if the white rectangle round the winding hole icon could be removed, and both the winding hole icon and lift bridge made bigger.
HB to confirm to JS what the bridge number of the lift bridge is
- i) Planting Trees above winding hole
PR had reported through the secretary that Martins had said hardwood trees would be best but we are still awaiting a recommendation of exactly which species
- 15) Green Social Prescribing
Having talked to Sharon Stone of EnergizeSTW, HB had found out that GPs will have a "Social Prescriber" who will prescribe various activities instead of a prescription for drugs, one of which is walking, so EnergizeSTW are interested in finding suitable walks in Whitchurch.
HB to arrange a meeting on the Whitchurch Arm with SS, CC and BS
- 16) Whitchurch Tangent Club
HB to drop this from the agenda
- 17) Any Other Business
- a) **JS** will quote for some display boards that we can display to promote WWT at various events
- b) There will be an event on 5Jun (the Queen's Jubilee) in the park opposite Home Bargains at which WWT could have a stall / display
- c) A signpost saying "TOWN" which used to be on the corner of Ann Jones' house has fallen down. Ann Jones does not want it to be re-erected there.
BS to dispose of the sign or keep it in his shed
- d) The WWT Policies need to be reviewed
HB to circulate all WWT policies for review at the next meeting
- 18) Date(s) of next meeting(s)
- 1930 Tue 8Mar2022 (probably at Hill Valley Golf Club, tbc)
1930 Wed 12Apr2022 (probably at Hill Valley Golf Club, tbc)
1930 Wed 10May2022 (probably at Hill Valley Golf Club, tbc)
1930 Wed 14Jun2022 (probably at Hill Valley Golf Club, tbc)