

THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

www.whitchurchwaterway.uk

Charity Commission No : 701050



MINUTES of a Committee Meeting held on 24Nov2021 at The Dodington Lodge, Dodington, Whitchurch, SY13 1EN

Present:

Helen Brockman	(WWT Secretary)
Chris Chambers	(WWT Trustee and Chairman)
Ray Hatton	(WWT Trustee)
Kevin Hudson	(Waterside Meadow PMC Representative)
Peggy Mullock	(Shropshire Council Representative)
Kath Oldham	
Paul Radcliffe	(WWT Trustee and Canal Festival Organiser)
Giles (Dugga) Sullivan	(Whitchurch Town Council Representative)
Bob Sumner	(WWT Trustee and Grounds Maintenance)

- 1) Apologies for Absence
David Torrens. Hilary Seward had a Whitchurch Business Group meeting and had said she would come late if she could.
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting / Matters Arising
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3) Conversion to a CIO
HB to get the Land Registry title for the Whitchurch Arm changed to show our Charity Number instead of our (now deceased) Company number, and give an email address and PR's address for it since the Land Registry insist on having at least 1 postal address.
- 4) Date of 2022 Canal Festival will be Sat 3rd and Sun 4th Sep 2022
PM will put an article in the Whitchurch Herald to advertise it
- 5) Membership
 - a) **KO** offered to take over membership from Dave Smith
 - b) It was decided that the Gift Aid section can be removed from the Membership Form, as we do not claim Gift Aid
- 6) Appeal for new Trustees
HB has got a page "Become a Trustee" added to our website now.
- 7) Arm Maintenance
 - a) **BS** would like volunteers for a work party to clear leaves from the end of the Arm
GS will see if he can get some volunteers from We Are Whitchurch to help with this and liaise with **BS** about it
HB to send **GS** **BS**'s phone number.
 - b) Improving Path to Long Term Moorings
Carried forward. We will deal with the tree cutting first.
 - c) Dangerous tree overhanging the Canal at the Junction
CC has reported this to **CRT**
CC will tell **CRT** that if they don't deal with it, we will.
 - d) Trees by the Long Term Moorings, overhanging the Memorial Garden and at the top of the bank
PR has obtained a quotation from Martins Tree Care
It was decided to do Jobs 1 and 2 on the quotation ASAP (Tractor Hedge cutting along the canal £60 and removing the decayed cherry tree at the top of the offside bank £450. Job 3 (removing 4 silver birch trees) will be done later.
PR will talk to nearby neighbour(s) about the work on the trees

HB to distribute the quote to Trustees

- e) Contractor to carry out regular work such as strimming, hedge cutting etc
PR will get a quote from Martin Tree Care for this in the spring
GS informed the meeting that Whitchurch Town Council had been paying Newmans £2000 a year for work they do at the canal. This was a surprise, as no-one in WWT knew what this could be for - WTC do very little on the Whitchurch Arm. WWT have had vegetation management done on the Arm by volunteers or contractors paid by WWT over the last few years.
- f) Offside Boundary Fence next to Waterfront View estate
KH informed us that the Waterside Meadow PMC has not been functioning well, and new people will be taking up the roles in it at the end of Dec, including a new Chairman
To be revisited in Jan 2022
- g) Signage for Boats about how to enter and leave the Whitchurch Arm from/to the Grindley Brook direction
HB had produced a suggested design for a replacement sign in the memorial garden which used icons to communicate, but there would not be enough room to communicate the facilities on the Arm, Whitchurch attractions, and how to navigate the turn from Grindley Brook into the Arm, and hi-res icons were not available
It was felt that only signage on the main line could communicate how to make the turn in time before boats start the manoeuvre.
CC will ask CRT again to erect a sign on CRT land on the main line (on the offside between the lift bridge and Dansons Bridge) and another on CRT land at the narrows to inform boaters how to make the turn.
We will leave the sign in the memorial garden as it is.
- 8) Whitchurch Country Park
Although no formal final response had been received from either WTC or SC, **GS** informed the meeting that the WTC Parks Committee had decided that they did not want to take on the Country Park at the moment because they feel they have enough to do in sorting out the town's other parks.
HB had not received any confirmation from SC that the route into town for canal restoration is still protected
PM will chase both these issues
- 9) Can we ditch our Entrust enrolment ?
Since we have never been able to apply for Landfill grants because there is no eligible landfill site within 10km of the Arm, we will terminate our Entrust enrolment to save the admin it involves.
- 10) Whitchurch Tangent Club
CC will contact the Tangent Club in the New Year to arrange going to one of their meetings
- 11) Treasurer's Report
As David Torrens was unable to attend the meeting, he had circulated the current accounts and an illustration of the COIF performance and sent this report :
- I have compiled the attached for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and I have separated the payments to CRT from the refunds into separate nominal accounts.
AS you can see each of these three years is far from "normal".
There is no one else set up to authorize payments online and ideally we should have three set up with two out of three required for a payment to be made.
I have heard DS had a cheque book, he has not found yet (he had never had to use it!). New cheque book ordered not received. So at the moment I have no way of making any payments.
I checked today and the value of the COIF fund has only fallen by about £400 in the last six months.*
- RH offered to be a 2nd online signatory for the TSB.
DT COIF signatories still to be reviewed
- 12) Any Other Business
- a) Planting trees on bank above winding hole
BS suggested we should plant some trees on the bank above the winding hole to help stabilise it. Free trees are on offer from the Environment Agency.
BS to find out from Martins Tree Care about suitable trees and where to plant them

b) HB will be having cataract surgery on 1Dec and may be out of action for some time after that

c) Keeping WWT files in the cloud

David Torrens has been looking at how WWT files could be kept in the cloud, to allow committee members to view one anothers' files, access files from anywhere, and allow handover of files should the owner become unable to hand them over to soeone else.

There was interest in pursuing this idea.

13) Date(s) of next meeting(s)

From Feb onwards, we will change to the 2nd Tue of the month

1930 Wed 12Jan2022 at The Dodington Lodge

1930 Tue 8Feb2022 at The Archibald Worthington

1930 Tue 8Mar2022 at The Dodington Lodge

1930 Wed 12Apr2022 at The Dodington Lodge

1930 Wed 10May2022 at The Dodington Lodge

1930 Wed 14Jun2022 at The Dodington Lodge