

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at the Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.30am on Friday 2 March 2001

Members

Hampshire County Council

- a Councillor J V Bryant
- Councillor R A Culver
- Councillor D Gillett
- * Councillor A W Rice TD

Hampshire Districts:

Hart District Council

- * Councillor P Shoemith
- Councillor S Wheale (dep)

Rushmoor Borough Council

- * Councillor J P Matthews
- * Councillor J J Wall
- Councillor C Balchin (dep)

Surrey County Council

- Mr W D Barker OBE
- * Michael Gammon Esq (Chairman)
- Mrs M King-Hele
- a Mrs Elise Whiteley

Surrey Districts:

Guildford Borough Council

- a Councillor Mrs A Gunning

Runnymede Borough Council

- * Councillor A G Collins

Woking Borough Council

- * Councillor Mrs M Gammon

Surrey Heath Borough Council

- * Councillor Mrs C M Whitcroft

Special Interest Groups:

English Nature

- a Mrs C Chatters

Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society

- * Mr P Redway

* = Present

a = Apologies

[All references to Items and Appendices refer to the Agenda for the meeting bound with the Minutes]

1/01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [Item 1]

Apologies had been received from Mrs Chatters, Councillors Bryant, Whitely, and Gunning.

2/01 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 13 October 2001** [Item 2]

The minutes were approved.

3/01 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

4/01 **PROCEDURAL MATTERS** [Item 4]

There were no procedural matters.

The Committee agreed to postpone Item 5 *Canal Directors Report* until after Item 6 *Report on Backpumping Scheme*.

5/01 **REPORT ON BACKPUMPING SCHEME** [Item 6]

Peter Redway informed the committee that members of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society working on the scheme, had been disinfecting themselves so as not to contribute to the spread of Foot and Mouth disease.

The report was noted.

6/01 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 5]

Further to the report, the Canal Director informed the committee that Tony Harmsworth had been working for the Canal for 25 years and was one of a line of Harmsworths who had worked for the Canal. Tony was retiring at the end of June and his input to the Canal had been invaluable. The committee offered Tony Harmsworth its best wishes for the future.

LT

The Canal Director informed the committee that due to Foot and Mouth disease, the public was being asked not to use certain areas along the Canal where there was livestock and deer. Notices had been put up concerning this. The Canal Authority was attempting to keep urban spaces open. The committee was due to have a tour of the back pumping scheme following the meeting. The Canal Director informed the committee that the tour had been cleared by Surrey County Council's Trading Standards.

It was suggested and agreed that the report would be more accurate if paragraph 2.1 stated:

“Sluice water from Ash Embankment has been identified as contributing to flooding of some properties in Shawfield Road, Ash. However, this was *only* one of several factors identified as causing the flooding...”

It was suggested and agreed that a letter from the JMC should be sent to staff, thanking them for efforts during the October storms.

LT

The Canal Director informed the committee that he had met with the user groups involved with Pond Tail and would be pursuing this issue again.

LT

A member of the committee suggested that the Canal Authority should investigate obtaining some of the money extracted from DERA by Hampshire County Council for Norris Bridge.

LT

The member from Woking Borough Council informed the committee that the Borough Council had turned down a grant application from the Community Boat Project. They had suggested that an application should be made to the probation budget instead.

The committee gave recognition to the importance of volunteer groups to the Canal.

Officers informed the committee that the Canal faced more storms and that in response efforts were being made to review emergency procedures. It was probable that emergency cover would have to be stepped up and out-of-hours pay would have to be increased for emergency staff. The committee offered its support to these efforts and asked for costings to be circulated.

JT

7/01 **REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER [Item 7]**

It was noted that Surrey Heath Borough Council's budget includes the full formula contribution, but that because the debt charges are repaid to Surrey County Council, only the balance is available for the revenue contribution to the Canal Authority.

The committee was informed that Hart District Council had received no increased rate support grant during the three years previous to the meeting. Therefore, the Council was unable to reverse the reduction in its contribution.

There was a brief discussion about how the new political management arrangements in Local Government had led to greater difficulty in appropriating sections of budgets for the Canal.

It was noted that the contributions were only indicative.

RESOLVED:

That members agree the management action proposed in paragraph 3 of the report, to meet the projected shortfall in contributions of £49, 400 in 2001/02.

SL

8/01 **SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY REPORT** [Item 8]

The representative for Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society introduced this report.

There was a discussion concerning alleged consent given for treated sewage to be emptied into the Canal at Brickworks Arm. There had been no consultation with the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society by the Environment Agency. Officers promised to investigate whether any consultation had taken place and what the result had been.

JT

Members congratulated the Society and thanked them for the work they had done. In particular, the committee recognised the work that Peter Redway had done for the Canal.

9/01 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** [Item 9]

The decision on what would be the date of the next meeting was delegated to officers.

Following the meeting, Mr Michael Gammon Esq. (the departing Chairman) was thanked for his contribution to the Basingstoke Canal and presented with a gift.

[Meeting Ended: 11.45am]

Chairman