

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at the Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.00am on Friday 12 April 2002

Members

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hampshire County Council | Surrey County Council |
| Councillor J V Bryant | Mr W D Barker OBE (Vice-Chairman) |
| a Councillor B T Gurden | Mrs M King-Hele |
| Councillor R J Kimber | John Phillips |
| Councillor A W Rice TD (Chairman) | a Mrs Elise Whiteley |
| Hampshire Districts: | Surrey Districts: |
| Hart District Council | Guildford Borough Council |
| a Councillor R Feltham | Councillor Angela Gunning |
| a Councillor S Wallis | |
| Rushmoor Borough Council | Runnymede Borough Council |
| a Councillor C Balchin | Councillor A G Collins |
| Councillor J J Wall | |
| | Woking Borough Council |
| | Councillor Mrs M Gammon |
| | Surrey Heath Borough Council |
| | a Councillor Mrs C M Whitcroft |

Special Interest Groups:

- English Nature**
- a Mrs C Chatters
- Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society**
- Mr P Redway

a = Absent

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

01/02 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS** [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mrs Whiteley and Councillors Balchin, Feltham, Wallis and Whitcroft. There were no substitutions.

02/02 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 19 October 2001** [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Canal Director announced the sad death of Brian Percy who had been a strong supporter of the Canal.

03/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 3]

There were no declarations of interest.

04/02 **PROCEDURAL MATTERS** [Item 4]

There were no procedural matters.

05/02 **PRESENTATION BY ROGER HANBURY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE WATERWAYS TRUST** [Item 5]

Roger Hanbury outlined the work of the Waterways Trust which is an independent charity covering the whole of the UK working to promote waterways. They work to conserve and enhance waterways to provide quality of life benefits to the local community by working in partnership with all types of organisation. He outlined a number of schemes, which they had been involved in.

It was reported that problems had arisen with the St Johns back pumping scheme as some sources of funding were no longer available to complete the project. Mr Hanbury offered to discuss the situation outside the meeting, but felt that the Trust may be able to facilitate a loan.

RESOLVED: That the Director be asked to continue to pursue the relationship with the Waterways Trust and to bring back proposals to the next meeting of the Committee on a way forward. **LT**

06/02 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 6]

The Canal Director circulated a replacement Appendix 2 at the meeting as the wrong version had been circulated with the papers.

Members discussed the revised proposals for the Canal Centre Mooring Basin and viewed the draft plans. They noted that there was a potential for around £10,000 income to be raised from the use of the Basin when completed. Members endorsed the proposal in principle to progress through the planning process. **LT**

It was suggested that money for towpath enhancements in Woking could be made available from the Woking Local Committee, which had recently been set up by Surrey County Council.

Noted the report.

07/02 **CAPITAL FUNDING** [Item 7]**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Surrey Heath Borough Council be requested to continue to pay their revenue contribution directly towards the running costs of the Basingstoke Canal without placing the onus on to the Committee to decide whether to repay debt charges to Surrey County Council.
- (b) That Surrey Heath be requested to resolve the debt charges issue directly with Surrey County.
- (c) That the payment to Surrey County Council of the Surrey Heath debt charges of £12,645 out of the full grant of £17,600 be authorised for 2001/02 only.

SL

08/02 **UPDATE OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2002/03** [Item 8]

The Canal Director reported that approaches had recently been received from mobile phone companies wishing to site masts on the banks of the Canal which could bring in £3-4,000 per year for each mast. Both requests received so far were within the Surrey County Council area. Members noted that whilst it may be possible to resist applications on the basis that the Canal is within a Conservation Area, it was likely that approaches would be made to adjacent landowners resulting in the visual impact of the masts from the Canal without the income. It was suggested that it may be possible for several companies to use one mast for a greater income.

On a vote of Members it was:-

RESOLVED by 8 votes to 0:

That any applications for the siting of mobile phone masts adjacent to the Canal be supported in principle subject to the views of the Estates Department of the relevant County Council and any planning constraints. **LT**

In addition in relation to the main report it was:-

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals in paragraph 3 of the report be agreed to meet the projected shortfall in contributions of £50,000 in 2002/03;
- (b) That a report regarding the proposals from the Resources sub-Committee be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

09/02 **ABSTRACTION LICENSING** [Item 9]

Noted that an Abstraction Licence is required for each abstraction site, with payments made annually. It was not known on what grounds a licence may be refused, but it was explained that failure to apply and receive a licence could leave Surrey County Council open to prosecution by the Environment Agency. It was suggested that if the Canal was designated a Country Park, this may obviate the need to apply for a Licence and that this should be investigated further.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That an Abstraction Licence be applied for immediately to allow the back pumping facility to be operated this summer;
- (b) That, in the meantime, solicitors from Hampshire and Surrey County Councils be asked to pursue, without prejudice, the question of navigation status, to include the possible liabilities that come with the status as well as the advantages and that a report on their findings be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

10/02 **REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY**
[Item 10]

It was suggested that the A325 bridge car park could be used for the Air Show to generate income.

It was suggested that perhaps insurance of the Society could be covered by the appropriate County Council to save on these costs.

The Committee noted the report and recorded their indebtedness to the Society for their continued support.

11/02 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** [Item 12]

The next meeting would take place on a Friday in October 2002. The exact date to be decided.

[Meeting Ended: 12.25pm]

Chairman