

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at Guildford Borough Council Offices, Guildford, at 10.00am on Friday 22 October 2004

Members

Hampshire County Council	Surrey County Council
Councillor K G Chapman (Vice-Ch)	Mr John G Ades
a Councillor B T Gurden	Mrs Elizabeth Compton
Councillor P Hutcheson	John Phillips (Chairman)
Councillor R J Kimber	a Mrs Diana Smith
Hampshire Districts:	Surrey Districts:
Hart District Council	Guildford Borough Council
Councillor Roger Jones OBE	Councillor Angela Gunning
Councillor Wallace Vincent	
Rushmoor Borough Council	Runnymede Borough Council
Councillor J J Wall	a Councillor A P Tollett
a Councillor F J Williams	
Co-opted Member Appointed by Committee	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Cllr Alan Rice TD	a Councillor Mrs C M Whitcroft
Mr Michael Gammon	
	Woking Borough Council
	Councillor N Hinks

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]

13/04 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** [Item 1]

Resolved: That Mr Phillips be appointed Chairman for 2004/05.

14/04 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** [Item 2]

Resolved: That Councillor Chapman be appointed Vice-Chairman for 2004/05

15/04 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS** [Item 3]

Apologies were received from Councillor Tollett and Councillor Mrs Whitcroft and Mrs Smith. Councillor D Whitcroft substituted for Cllr Mrs Whitcroft and Louise Bardsley substituted for Mrs Chatters.

16/04 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 2 April 2004** [Item 4]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

Councillor Angela Gunning was present at the meeting and should not have been marked absent. Cllr Chapman sent his apologies in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Gunning requested that Item 06/04 Canal Director's Report be amended by inclusion that the Committee had discussed the issue of noise complaints relating to the Dry Dock.

17/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 5]

None.

18/04 **PROCEDURAL MATTERS** [Item 6]

No questions or petitions were received.

19/04 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 8]

Noted that the Canal was still shut as a result of low water levels although these are now rising. There was a discussion as to whether winter water could be saved in reservoirs for use in the summer. This would be possible, but would require land and be expensive to construct. Use of the Tundry Pond which is not in Canal ownership was also suggested.

In relation to vandalism it was suggested that community wardens which are available in most District/Boroughs could be used to patrol trouble spots. Members agreed to give the Director details. Community Safety teams could also be useful if they were aware of the problem.

Noted that there is a protocol within the Criminal Justice Act which allows local authorities to evict travellers within 6 hours and to get them to pay for any damage caused.

Noted that Santa Cruises were now sold out.

In relation to tree inspections, Members suggested that the Woodland Trust and Merrist Wood be approached with a view to helping with this project.

Noted the report.

20/04 **REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER** [Item 9]

Mr Redway reported that the Canal Society were very pleased with the money allocated to St Johns Backpumping scheme. However more money is still required so the Society will be writing to all authorities offering a presentation to Members and emphasising the value for money of the Canal.

Members suggested a number of ways that Local Authorities can act as enablers even if their own financial contribution is limited. For example funding is available from SEEDA/SEERA, DEFRA and from Europe. English Nature offered to provide expertise in preparing a bid for European funding. It was agreed that the minutes of the Resources Group should be circulated to members inviting them to make contributions in any area where they have influence

Resolved:

- (a) That the final accounts of the Basingstoke Canal Authority for the year ended 31 March 2004 be approved and that the net revenue deficit of £1,254 be funded from the Reserve Account.
- (b) That the revised budget for 2004/05 be agreed.
- (c) That the proposed forward budget for 2005/06 be agreed and submitted for consideration to the constituent authorities.
- (d) (agreed by 10 voted FOR to 1 AGAINST, 2 members abstained)
That the underlying shortfall in local authority contributions, and the measures being taken to alleviate the problem be noted and members seek to ensure that 2005/06 contributions be made at the requested levels.
- (e) That the Resources Group be reconvened to look at scenarios for future operation of the Canal and to report back soon.
- (f) That the capital expenditure programme in paragraph 7.2 be noted and the reallocation of £8,497 to St John's Backpumping be agreed.
- (g) That each Authority is asked to provide advice on the most appropriate way of bidding for capital monies for specific projects
- h) That Members be invited to provide input, if required, to funding initiatives

21/04 **BOAT NUMBERS AND LICENSING 2004/05** (Item 10)

Noted that there is a limit of 400 licenses agreed with English Nature.

Noted that the prices are similar to that charged by other equivalent waterways. However, the Resources Group would examine this in more detail for next year.

Resolved:

- (a) That the fees for 2005 as outlined in the report be agreed.
- (b) That the Canal Director continue to be authorised to issue special licenses for events etc at his discretion.
- (c) That improvements in boating regulations and arrangements continue to be explored by the Director in consultation with user groups and that any changes be reported back

22/04 **DRY DOCK UPDATE** [Item 11]

The SCC Head of Countryside Management reported on the current situation. The Canal Authority and Surrey County Council will monitor the current agreement until December. If after this time the complainant is still unhappy Guildford Borough Council could issue a stop notice. However, it may be possible to appeal against this.

It was suggested that a noise diary should be set up in the dry dock to determine whether complaints match with specific activities.

Noted the report.

23/04 **REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY**
[Item 12]

Noted at the end of page 2 of the report that Accruals had risen to £8,000 since the publication of the report.

The Committee noted the report and thanked the Society and its volunteers for all their hard work.

24/04 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** [Item 13]

Dog Mess – Noted that carved notices are currently being prepared. There are bylaws which would allow prosecution if sufficient evidence can be obtained.

Proposed move of County Hall to Woking – it was reported that the Canal Society had attended a meeting with a representative from Woking Gallery, who indicated that some of the proposed Section 106 agreement money arising from the planning consent for County Hall may well be used to improve the environs of the Gallery, rather than being used for canal-side improvements. Officers agreed to investigate and update members on the situation. Members supported maximum investment of any available money in the Canal.

25/04 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** [Item 14]

Agreed that the meeting would alternate between the Canal Centre and District/Borough Council Offices.

The next meeting would take place on 18 March or 15 April at 10.00 am at the Canal Centre.

[Meeting Ended: 11.45 am]

Chairman