

**MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at the Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.00am on Friday 18 March 2005**

**Members**

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

**Special Interest Groups:**

**English Nature**  
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]

01/05 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS** [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Cllr Hutcheson, Cllr Vincent, Cllr Rice and Louise Bardsley.

02/05 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 22 October 2004** [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

03/05 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 3]

None.

04/05 **PROCEDURAL MATTERS** [Item 4]

No questions or petitions were received.

05/05 **VOTING RIGHTS OF NON-LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS** [Item 5]

The legal position was outlined by Colm Hughes, Solicitor, Surrey County Council. Mrs Chatters from English Nature indicated that they had viewed their role as advisory and were happy to accept the position.

Apologies were given to the non-local authority members that the oversight in not seeking a dispensation had prevented them from having voting rights. Mr Redway, on behalf of the Canal Society asked for the support of the two County Councils in restoring voting rights to the Society which has contributed greatly to the Canal.

The Treasurer indicated that if voting rights were given there could be a liability of approximately £200,000 for retrospective VAT liability and this would be ongoing in future years (at around £35,000 pa based on the 2003-4 outturn statement).

In view of the liability for VAT the Committee did not feel able to support an application to the Secretary of State for a dispensation to allow non-local authority members to vote. However, Members requested both County Councils to investigate alternative models of structure and finance which may recognise the contribution of the non-local authority members.

06/05 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 6]

The Director indicated that he would circulate water level reports with the Minutes.

Noted that the "Canal Watch" scheme would be launched next Monday at 1.30pm at the Canal Centre and all Members were invited to attend.

Copies of the Canal Management Plan that will be launched later in the year were circulated to members for comments.

Noted the report.

07/05 **REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER** [Item 7]

Members suggested that all Surrey MEPs and their partners should be invited for a day on the Canal with a view to getting their support for bids to Europe for grants.

Noted that both County Councils would be looking at capital bids to finance the backlog of maintenance work.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the Canal Director be authorised to take the necessary steps outlined in paragraph 3 of the report to contain the net expenditure during 2005/06 to meet the shortfall in contributions from the partner authorities.
- (b) That Hart District Council and Runnymede and Surrey Heath Borough Councils be asked to reconsider their proposed contributions for 2005/06.

08/05 **REPORT FROM THE RESOURCES WORKING GROUP [Item 10]**

The Director gave a presentation outlining the value for money offered by the Canal that Members found very informative. It was suggested that that pictures could be added if the presentation is made to other audiences.

The Director agreed to tell Members where the people counters were located along the Canal.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the Canal Director continue with the projects outlined in the report as well as identifying new opportunities.
- (b) That the “Value for Money” Report be endorsed and be circulated by Members to relevant Members and Officers in the respective authorities.
- (c) That Members be asked to continue to consider the needs of the Canal when the business of their Council is undertaken and potential opportunities for income reported to the Canal Director for action.
- (d) That a full update on resourcing be provided at the next meeting.

09/05 **REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY [Item 11]**

The Canal Director agreed to write to all riparian planning authorities reminding them of the need to consider the Canal when applications are received and to ensure that other departments within the authority are aware of the position when considering development close to the Canal. This was particularly important in view of the introduction of Local Development Frameworks which did not allow any discretion.

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

10/05 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** [Item 10]

**Chairman** – The Committee thanked the Chairman the Chairman for his hard work as this would be his last meeting.

11/05 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** [Item 11]

The next meeting would take place on 21 October at 10.00 am at Woking Borough Council Offices.

**[Meeting Ended: 12.05 pm]**

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**Chairman**