

**MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at the Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.00am on Friday 20 October 2006**

**Members**

**Hampshire County Council**

Councillor K G Chapman (Chairman)  
Councillor B T Gurden  
Councillor P Hutcheson  
Councillor R J Kimber

**Surrey County Council**

Mrs Elizabeth Compton  
Mr John Doran  
Mr David Munro (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs Diana Smith

**Hampshire Districts:**

**Hart District Council**

Councillor Simon Ambler  
Councillor Wallace Vincent

**Surrey Districts:**

**Guildford Borough Council**

Councillor Angela Gunning

**Rushmoor Borough Council**

Councillor M J Tennant  
Councillor J J Wall

**Runnymede Borough Council**

Councillor A J Davis

**Co-opted Member Appointed  
by Committee**

- a Cllr Alan Rice TD
- Mr Michael Gammon

**Surrey Heath Borough Council**

Councillor Mrs C M Whitcroft

**Woking Borough Council**

Councillor Ann-Marie Barker

**Special Interest Groups:**

**Natural England**

- a Ms Vanessa Burley

**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]

11/06 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** [Item 1]

**Resolved:** That Cllr Chapman be appointed Chairman for 2006/07.

12/06 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** [Item 2]

**Resolved:** That Mr Munro be appointed Vice-Chairman for 2006/07.

13/06 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS** [Item 3]

Apologies were received from Councillor Rice.

14/06 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 17 March 2006** [Item 4]

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

15/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 5]

None.

16/06 **PROCEDURAL MATTERS** [Item 6]

No questions or petitions were received.

17/06 **BASINGSTOKE CANAL OPTIONS APPRIASAL** [Item 7]

Lynn Mead from Hampshire County Council introduced the report and ran through the work of the three project teams. The Committee considered the report in detail and a number of points were raised including the following:

Before any progress can be made in working in partnership or with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party it is necessary to know the exact condition of the Canal. A survey is currently being carried out to establish what work would need to be completed in the future to maintain or enhance the Canal. This will cost in the region of £80,000 which will be split between the two County Councils and will take around a year to complete. Currently there are three sections of the Canal where the condition is poor and these are monitored regularly by the BCS and structural engineers until a decision can be made on what should be done.

In order for the Canal to be run as a Charitable Trust it must be fully insured. Currently the Canal is insured by the relevant County Council, but insurance would need to be supplied by a commercial insurer. Work is currently being carried out to establish whether the Canal is insurable at an affordable cost.

The Canal Society would find it difficult to find volunteers to work on the maintenance of the Canal. Whilst they have helped with maintenance on an exceptional basis as part of improvement work they would prefer to concentrate on improvement work and would not be willing to extend their work to cover maintenance.

28 out of the 29 locks are on the Surrey stretch of the Canal and would have to be converted to weirs at considerable cost if the Canal was closed or restricted. Any closure of the Canal to navigation would be likely to be challenged in court.

A number of Members were unhappy with recommendation 8.1.1 and felt that they were unable to commit their authorities to a full contribution even if it was only for one year. It was suggested that perhaps those authorities who couldn't make their full contribution could perhaps consider making some contribution in kind instead.

The recommendations as outlined in the report excluding 8.1.1 were proposed by Mr Munro and seconded by Cllr Kimber. Recommendation 8.1.1 was also agreed on a majority Cllr Davis requested that his vote against was recorded. It was therefore:

**Resolved:** That the recommendations set out in Paragraph 8 of the report be supported.

18/06 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 8]

The Director highlighted the main points of his report. In relation to paragraph 1.6 it was noted that the Director had the support of Hampshire Police to take forward a Canal Watch Scheme on the Hampshire stretch of the Canal.

Mr Gammon reported that the Woking pound is in need of clearance of weeds and shopping trolleys. He offered the use of the canal boat 'Maggie G' for this work. The Director accepted the offer and agreed to look into when this work could be done.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the Canal Director be authorised to carry out the proposed actions outlined in the report as well as pursuing the opportunities and potential sources of income identified by the income generation group.
- (b) That members should continue to consider and support the needs of the Canal when the business of their Council is undertaken in order to secure its future.
- (c) That a full Canal Management (Business) Plan be provided at the next meeting.

19/06 **REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER [Item 9]**

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the final accounts of the Basingstoke Canal Authority for the year ended 31 March 2006 be approved.
- (b) That the revised budget for 2006/07 be agreed.
- (c) That the proposed forward budget for 2007/08 be agreed and submitted for consideration to the constituent authorities.
- (d) That the proposed licence fees for 2007/08 as outlined in Appendix D of the report be agreed.
- (e) That £1,150 of unallocated reserves be transferred to the Canal Infrastructure budget.

20/06 **REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY [Item 10]**

It was reported that the electric company were currently working on the pump at St Johns and the work was now almost complete.

The Committee thanked the Society for their continued hard work and support.

21/06 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS [Item 11]**

None.

22/06 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** [Item 12]

The next meeting would take place on Friday 2 March 2007 at 10.00 am at the Canal Centre.

**[Meeting Ended: 12.15 am]**

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**Chairman**