

**MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at the Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.05am on Friday 19 October 2007**

**Members**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Hampshire County Council</b>               | <b>Surrey County Council</b>        |
| a Cllr K G Chapman(Vice-Chairman)             | Mrs Elizabeth Compton               |
| Cllr B T Gurden                               | a Mr John Doran                     |
| a Cllr P Hutcheson                            | Mr David Munro (Chairman)           |
| Cllr R J Kimber                               | Mrs Diana Smith                     |
| <b>Hampshire Districts:</b>                   | <b>Surrey Districts:</b>            |
| <b>Hart District Council</b>                  | <b>Guildford Borough Council</b>    |
| Cllr Simon Ambler                             | a Cllr Mike Nevins                  |
| Cllr Kenneth Crookes                          |                                     |
| <b>Rushmoor Borough Council</b>               | <b>Runnymede Borough Council</b>    |
| a Cllr J H Marsh                              | Cllr A J Davis                      |
| a Cllr M J Tennant                            |                                     |
| <b>Co-opted Member Appointed by Committee</b> | <b>Surrey Heath Borough Council</b> |
| a Cllr Alan Rice TD                           | Cllr Craig Fennell                  |
| Mr Michael Gammon                             |                                     |
|   | <b>Woking Borough Council</b>       |
|   | Cllr Mrs B A Hunwicks               |

**Special Interest Groups:**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Natural England</b>  | <b>Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society</b> |
| a Ms Catherine Chatters | Mr P Redway MBE                           |

a = Absent

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

11/07 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** [Item 1]

**Resolved:** That Mr Munro be appointed Chairman for 2007/08.

12/07 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** [Item 2]

**Resolved:** That Cllr Chapman be appointed Vice-Chairman for 2007/08.

13/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS** [Item 3]

Apologies were received from Councillors Chapman, Hutcheson, Marsh, Nevins, Rice and Tennant and Mr Doran and Ms Chatters. Cllr Bedford substituted for Cllr Marsh.

The Chairman and Committee congratulated Peter Redway on the award of his MBE. It is a well-deserved tribute both to Mr Redway and the work of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society.

14/07 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 23 March 2007** [Item 4]

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted in relation to Minute 08/07 that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had not yet written to the Society on behalf of the Committee to recognise their hard work.

15/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 5]

None.

16/07 **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS** [Item 6]

No questions or petitions were received.

17/07 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 6]

The Director highlighted the main points of his report and the Committee noted the progress achieved in a number of areas.

It was agreed that a report outlining information on "Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG)" would be submitted to the next meeting.

The Director reported that as a result of the long-term sick leave of the Operations Manager and the disestablishment of a senior ranger post there had been considerable pressure on staff. However a new position, subject to appropriate consultation, will be advertised and it is hoped that this would be filled by the end of the year.

Appendix 1 – It was noted that there was a need to improve security in the vicinity of the Canal Centre. Cllr Bedford had had experience with a similar facility in Rushmoor and offered to put the Director in touch with the relevant officers.

Noted that the Canal Authority were supportive of the proposal from the Basingstoke Canoe Club to build a club house at Odiham. Further details of the proposals would be presented to the next meeting.

Appendix 2 – Members were urged to return to their authorities and ask them to pay the full contribution to the Canal Authority for 2008/09 pending agreement of a new funding model. Model 2 was currently favoured by 4 out of the 6 districts. However, there were concerns that in some areas population 5 miles from the Canal could extend beyond Borough and District Boundaries to areas that do not currently contribute to the Canal. The Director warned that it was possible that if not all authorities were prepared to sign up to contribute core funding that maintenance could be reduced in those areas where authorities had contributed less than the agreed amount and that this could result in the closure of the towpath in these areas.

Appendix 4 – It was reported that a successful meeting had taken place with Sustrans who had agreed to act as Project Manager to improvements to the canal towpath between Pirbright and the Wey Navigation. Funding was available to start the section in Woking Town Centre in February 2008. In this area the path will be surfaced with tar and chip to allow good access, but this would not be used everywhere. The towpath will remain permissive and will not become a right of way. Improved lighting will be provided particularly under bridges and will be low level and vandal proof. It was

noted that a full public consultation is to be held in Woking Town Centre, venues to be confirmed.

It was noted that there were problems with antisocial behaviour beside the Canal in Woking Town Centre and it was possible that benches may have to be removed to deter the offenders.

The Director and Canal staff were congratulated on their swift response to structural failures and the effects of severe weather.

**Resolved:**

That the Director be supported in his work and permitted to carry out items as suggested within the report and appendices.

18/07 **ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT [Item 8]**

Noted the report and that a contractor would shortly be appointed to carry out the specialist survey work and it was hoped that the Plan would be in place by 2009/10.

19/07 **REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER [Item 7]**

Noted that the Canal Authority accounts will be audited separately from Hampshire County Council accounts as required by the Audit Commission. The accounts had been submitted for audit and the result was awaited.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the final accounts of the Basingstoke Canal Authority for the year ended 31 March 2007 be approved.
- (b) That the revised budget for 2007/08 be agreed.
- (c) That the proposed forward budget for 2008/09 be agreed and submitted for consideration to the constituent authorities.
- (d) That the proposed licence fees for 2008/09 be agreed.
- (e) That £39,631 of unallocated reserves be transferred to the Canal Infrastructure budget, subject to balancing the budget at the end of the current financial year.

20/07 **REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY [Item 10]**

In relation to the work required in Deepcut (para 1.3) Mr Dawson reported that the specification would be completed shortly and that the contract would then be let.

Noted the report,

21/07 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS [Item 11]**

Agreed that the next meeting would take place on Friday 18 April 2007 at 10.05 am at the Canal Centre.

The Chairman reported that in order to maintain continuity between meetings, he would be meeting with the Vice-Chairman, the Director and relevant officers between meetings as a Steering Group.

**[Meeting Ended: 11.40am]**

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**Chairman**