

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at Basingstoke Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.05am on Friday 11 February 2011

Members

Hampshire County Council Cllr Keith Chapman (Chairman) a Cllr Brian Gurden Cllr Roger Kimber a Cllr Jenny Radley	Surrey County Council a Mrs Elizabeth Compton Ben Carasco a Mr Chris Pitt (Vice-Chairman) Mrs Diana Smith
Hampshire Districts: Hart District Council Cllr Simon Ambler Cllr Sara Kinnell	Surrey Districts: Guildford Borough Council a Cllr Pat Scott
Rushmoor Borough Council a Cllr R Hughes Cllr J H Marsh	Runnymede Borough Council Cllr J M Edwards
	Surrey Heath Borough Council Cllr David Whitcroft
	Woking Borough Council Cllr G Preshaw

Special Interest Groups:

Natural England a Cressida Wheelwright	Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society Mr Roger Cansdale Mr Gareth Jones
Parish Councils Alastair Clark	Inland Waterways Association Paul Roper
Basingstoke Canal Houseboat Owners' Association a Ms Kathy Williams	Business Interests Galleon Marine - Mrs Peile

a = absent

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

PART 1

IN PUBLIC

01/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

The Committee were informed of the recent death of the Chairman of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society, Mr Peter Redway MBE. The Committee stood in silent tribute to Mr Redway who had made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the Canal over many years.

Apologies were received from Councillors Gurden, Radley and Scott and Mrs Compton, Mr Pitt and Mr Riley. Mr Cansdale and Mr Jones represented the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society.

It was noted that at a recent stakeholder meeting reference had been made to an unfilled vacancy on the Committee for an additional co-opted member. Three suggestions had been put forward: the Residential Boat Owners Association, Accessible Boating and the Basingstoke Canal Boating Club. Following consideration, the Committee

Resolved: That the vacancy for a co-opted member of the Committee should be filled by a representative from the Basingstoke Canal Boating Club.

02/11 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 22 October 2010** [Item 2]

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman:

Minute 29/10 – Towpath Improvement Projects. Noted that the Chairman had had a useful meeting with the leader of Surrey Heath Borough Council and had suggested that if it was not possible for the authority to make a full revenue contribution, a capital fund could be considered. The capital cost of the repair of the towpath had subsequently been forwarded to the Leader. Mr Whitcroft reported that no capital provision for the Canal had been included in the Surrey Heath budget. However, there is a community fund to which the Canal Director could apply for funding. The Canal has also been included in the development plan for the Deepcut development as a major recreational facility and may be eligible for Section 106 funding. The Canal Director confirmed that he has made the necessary applications for funding.

03/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [Item 3]

None.

04/11 **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS** [Item 4]

No petitions or questions had been received.

05/11 **BASINGSTOKE CANAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN** [Item 5]

Key Points Raised during the Discussion:

- Noted that culvert surveys had taken longer than anticipated and a further report would be made to the next meeting.

Further Information to be Provided/ Actions:

None.

Recommendations:

None.

06/11 **CANAL DIRECTORS REPORT [Item 6]**

Key Points Raised during the Discussion:

BCA Structure Review

- Noted that currently there is very little revenue left for maintenance after salaries and other costs, with only £50k being available in 2010/11. If the restructuring plans are agreed this should allow around £200k to be made available. Members felt that it was important that revenue money for maintenance was available as soon as possible so that the good work done by the County Councils in capital projects was not allowed to fall back into disrepair. It is also crucial that all contributing authorities maintain their level of contribution otherwise the Canal will become unsustainable.

Open Access Policy

- There was general support for this flexible approach and the greater use of volunteers.

Income Generation and Business Plan

- Noted that a both County Councils have put considerable officer time into the Canal to try and put it on a stable footing.
- The Canal Director was congratulated on the completion of the business case. It was suggested that the introduction of more moorings at a competitive rate could help to provide extra income.
- It was suggested that there could be opportunities for joint working with other organisations such as the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnersip. Officers responded that these areas were already being investigated.

Further Information to be Provided/ Actions:

- None

Resolved:

- (a) That the Director be supported on items as suggested and discussed in this report.
- (b) That the partnership continues to support the canal with adequate funding in this critically challenging time.

07/11 **UPDATE OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2010/11 AND 2011/12 [Item 7]**

Key Points Raised during the Discussion:

- The Honorary Treasurer circulated an amendment to Appendix A outlining the contributions made by the Parish Councils in the Hart areas to help meet the overall contribution from Hart District Council.

The Revised Budget 2010/11 and Forecast Outturn 2010/11 to be amended by the inclusion of:

Hart District Council	£33,000
Dogmersfield Parish Council	£240
Rotherwick Parish Council	£215
Fleet Town Council	£25,081
Winchfield Parish Council	£250
Odiham Parish Council	£4,036
Crookham Village Parish Council	£3,000

- Noted in relation to Appendix B that the following partner contributions have been confirmed:

Runnymede Borough Council	£8,000
Surrey Heath Borough Council	£10,000
Rushmoor Borough Council	£40,200

 In addition the two County Councils and Hart District Council (& town/parishes) had agreed to meet their requested contributions in full
- There was concern that the income as a proportion of the running costs of the Canal is probably the lowest anywhere in the country, which suggests that many people are not paying what is due. The Director reported that there are a number of people who have refused to pay and legal action will be taken. In the future mooring and navigation licenses will be separated.
- Noted that the budget does not take account of the restructuring proposals as these have not yet been agreed and if they do go ahead there will be no savings in 2011/12.
- There was concern that many authorities were not making their full contribution and there could be a shortfall in the order of £30k which would use up all the reserves. It was noted that the Leader of Hampshire County Council had written to the Leaders of the contributing authorities urging them to find the full contribution.
- Noted that work was ongoing to establish the ownership of land backing onto the Canal. This had been completed in Surrey and would be complete in Hampshire by April. The owners would then be asked to make a contribution to the maintenance of the Canal which could raise £20-23K per year. However it could take time to reach this level of contribution.

Further Information to be Provided/ Actions:

None.

Resolved:

- That the figures for the current financial year as set out in Appendix A be noted.
- That all partner authorities be urged to make their full contributions and to honour the agreed scale contributions for 2011/12 as set in Appendix B

08/11 REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY [Item 8]**Key Points Raised during the Discussion:**

- It was reported that Hampshire County Council are considering selling a barn and an area of land beside the Canal where the John Pinkerton is currently moored. This area is relatively secure and it is unclear where the boat could be moved to if this land is sold. If the boat can no longer be used it will reduce the amount of income that can be used by the Society to work on the Canal. Officers were aware of the concerns and would be working to find a solution.

09/11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS [Item 9]

Friday 17 June 2011 at 10.05am at the Canal Centre.

[Meeting Ended: 11.00am]

Chairman