

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee held at Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett, at 10.05am on Friday 17 June 2011

Members

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| Hampshire County Council | Surrey County Council |
| Cllr Keith Chapman (Vice-Chairman) | Mrs Linda Kemeny (Chairman) |
| Cllr Brian Gurden | Mr Ben Carasco |
| Cllr Roger Kimber | a Mr Chris Pitt |
| Cllr Jenny Radley | a Mrs Diana Smith |
| Hampshire Districts: | Surrey Districts: |
| Hart District Council | Guildford Borough Council |
| Cllr Simon Ambler | Cllr John Randall |
| a Cllr Sara Kinnell | |
| Rushmoor Borough Council | Runnymede Borough Council |
| Cllr R Hughes | Cllr J M Edwards |
| Cllr J H Marsh | |
| | Surrey Heath Borough Council |
| | a Cllr Bob Paton |
| | Woking Borough Council |
| | Cllr G Preshaw |
| Special Interest Groups: | |
| Natural England | Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society |
| a Cressida Wheelwright | a Mr Roger Cansdale |
| | Martin Leech |
| | Mr Gareth Jones |
| Parish Councils | a Mr P Riley |
| Alastair Clark | |
| | Inland Waterways Association |
| | a Paul Roper |
| | Gareth Jones |
| Basingstoke Canal Houseboat Owners' Association | Business Interests |
| Mr Denis Betro | Galleon Marine – Mrs Peile |
| a Ms Kathy Williams | |
| Basingstoke Canal Boating Club | |
| Steve Dallen | |

a = absent

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

PART 1**IN PUBLIC****10/11 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN [Item 1]**

Cllr Keith Chapman nominated Mrs Linda Kemeny as Chairman. Cllr Glynis Preshaw seconded the nomination.

Resolved:

That Mrs Linda Kemeny be elected as Committee Chairman.

11/11 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN [Item 2]

Cllr Roger Kimber nominated Keith Chapman as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Roger Gurden seconded the nomination.

Resolved:

That Cllr Keith Chapman be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

12/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 3]

Apologies were received from Diana Smith, Cllr Sara Kinnell and Chris Pitt.

13/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 11 FEBRUARY 2011 [Item 4]

- Representatives from the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) and the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society (SHCS) requested to meet with both County Councils on a more regular basis.
- Officers were asked for an update regarding progress made on the subject of maintenance contributions by individuals who own land that backs on to the canal. Members of the Committee were informed that this would be discussed at a future meeting between estates colleagues and Hampshire County Council.
- Officers were asked whether a restrictive covenant could be added to the proposed sale of land near which the John Pinkerton is moored. The Committee was informed that negotiations are currently taking place, and that it will receive an update at the next meeting.
- The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Actions/further information to be provided:

- Andy Smith to provide members of the Committee with a copy of the response from Network Rail on the subject of bridge improvement works.

- Andy Smith to arrange a meeting between the IWA, SHCS and both County Councils.
- Officers to report back to the Committee on the subject of contributions from canal landowners at the next meeting.
- Officers to update the Committee regarding the proposed sale of land near to the John Pinkerton mooring at the next meeting.

14/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** [Item 5]

There were no declarations of interests.

15/11 **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS** [Item 6]

There were no questions or petitions.

16/11 **BASINGSTOKE CANAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE** [Item 7]

Key points raised during the discussion:

- The Committee was informed that the culvert survey and draft risk register had been completed. The Asset Management Plan is also soon to be signed off by the working group, and should be available at the next meeting.
- Officers stated that SCC is preparing to use its existing capital allocation to fund additional work on culverts.
- Officers promised to confirm by September whether the canal can be re-opened in time for the boat rally next spring, though this is dependent on work to lock structures and lock gates in the Deepcut flight. Improvements to Mytchett Lake Embankment were also regarded as a significant piece of work. Partners requested that if the situation changed they be informed as soon as possible.
- Members of the Committee asked when the capital works programme would begin. Officers agreed to circulate a note explaining why work had not yet commenced.

Actions/further information to be provided:

- Officers to submit a fourth edition of the Asset Management Plan at the Committee's next meeting.
- Officers to circulate a note to members of the Committee explaining why work has not yet begun on the capital works programme.

Recommendations:

None.

17/11 **CANAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT** [Item 8]

Key points raised during the discussion:

- The Chairman stated that partners should be encouraged to 'pay their share' before any further progress can be made with the planning application for a two story shower and toilet block at the Canal Centre. As such, it was agreed that there should be a clear record of contributions from partners.
- It was noted that Bisley prison specialises in the production of signage and it was suggested that these prisoners and army personnel be used as a resource for work on the Canal.
- Officers stated that they had no baseline data on bats, and that the Council needs to carry out a survey before any further progress can be made. Members expressed concerns that this may affect the outcome of building planning applications.
- The Committee was informed that the gates at lock 12 have not been fitted because there were no stop plank groves available. Other issues affecting the work include the need for road closures and the gates' proximity to a nearby petrol station. Officers are still awaiting the appointment of the term contractor, but are aiming for work to be completed in the next two to three months.
- It was suggested that a standard, regular funding stream is required, as capital alone will most likely result in the condition of the canal deteriorating once again.
- It was noted that both SCC and HCC are reviewing their annual budgets at present. This will determine the future of the canal, and it was agreed that the Committee's views should be heard in this process. As such, it was suggested that the JMC considers how it can move forward in order to help support the work of the Canal Director.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Resolved:

- That the director be supported on items as suggested and discussed in the report.
- That the Business and Actions Plan be adopted.
- That while acknowledging the current difficult economic circumstances facing all partners, it is imperative that partners be encouraged to contribute their full share so that the safety and enjoyment of visitors and users of the Canal can be ensured.

18/11 **TREASURER'S REPORT** [Item 10]

Key points raised during the discussion:

- Officers informed the Committee that the current financial outturn was better than expected with most figures coming in on target, although routine maintenance has been postponed. A revised budget will be available at the next meeting.
- It was suggested that there are alternative methods of income that need to be explored, including sponsorship and ensuring that boaters pay their way. It was also raised that there is a focus on costs at present, while there is a need to look at expenditure. The Chairman suggested forming a working group to consider external funding and income generation in order to assist the Canal Director and report back to the next JMC meeting.
- The Parish Council Representative confirmed that the parishes' contribution had been £32,822.

Actions/further information to be provided:

- Officers to arrange a working group meeting in consultation with the Chairman.

Resolved:

- That the draft final accounts of the Basingstoke Canal Authority for the year ended 31 March 2011 be approved.
- That the £4,931 revenue surplus be transferred to the Canal Infrastructure reserve to provide a small fund for low-cost essential repairs.

19/11 **REPORT OF THE SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY [Item 11]**

Key points raised during the discussion:

- It was suggested that Members be encouraged to approach developers planning developments bordering the canal to ensure that they make a suitable contribution to the Canal's maintenance.
- The Committee agreed that further information was required regarding who is talking to whom in terms of canal development.

Actions/further information to be provided:

- That the Committee be updated regarding canal development discussions between partners.

Recommendations:

None.

20/11 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** [Item 12]

Friday, 14 October 2011.

Chairman