

MINUTES of the meeting of the **BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at 10.05 am on 25 June 2015 at Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey, GU16 6DD.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting.

Hampshire County Council

Councillor Keith Chapman (Chairman)
Councillor John Bennison
Councillor Brian Gurden
Councillor John Wall

Surrey County Council

Mrs Linda Kemeny (Vice - Chairman)
Mr Chris Pitt
Mr Ben Carasco
Mr Colin Kemp

Hampshire Districts:

Hart District Council

Councillor Simon Ambler
Councillor Stephen Gorys

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor Les Taylor
Councillor J H Marsh

Surrey Districts:

Guildford Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Jackson

Runnymede Borough Council

Councillor J M Edwards

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Councillor David Lewis

Woking Borough Council

Councillor K Davis

Special Interest Groups

Basingstoke Canal Society

Martin Leech
Mr P Riley

Hart Association of Parish Councils

Alastair Clark

Residential Boat Owners Association

Julia Jacs

Natural England

Adam Wallace

Inland Waterways Association

Gareth Jones

Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club

Liz Murnaghan

12/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Linda Kemeny, Simon Ambler and Gordon Jackson.

13/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: 16 OCTOBER 2014 AND 26 FEBRUARY 2015 [Item 2]

These were agreed as a true record of the previous two meetings

14/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

15/15 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were none.

16/15 CANAL MANAGEMENT REPORT [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

James Taylor, Strategic Manager Basingstoke Canal – Surrey & Hampshire County Councils

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager – Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Officers were thanked on behalf of Hart District Council for reopening the towpath at Dogmersfield Landslip. Members also questioned how long the towpath would be closed in October. Officers informed the Committee that it would be closed for between 8 and 10 weeks.

Resolved: The report was noted

Actions/further information to be provided: None

Committee next steps: None

17/15 CANAL SOCIETY REPORT [Item 6]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Philip Riley, Chairman - Basingstoke Canal Society

Martin Leech, Vice Chairman - Basingstoke Canal Society

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Society informed the Committee that a boat rally at Colt Hill had taken place on the 24th of May 2015 and was a great success. The Vice Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Society added that the rally offered a great opportunity to promote the Canal and that another rally was being planned and would be held at Brookwood Country Park.

Resolved: The report was noted

Actions/further information to be provided: None

Committee next steps: None

18/15 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15 [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Jane Lovett, Finance Business Partner, Hampshire County Council

Resolved:

- a) Members supported the final outturn for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A of the report.

Actions/further information to be provided: None

Committee next steps: None

19/15 SMALL BODIES ANNUAL RETURN 2014/15 [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Jane Lovett, Finance Business Partner, Hampshire County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee were informed that this would be the last Small Bodies Annual Return report as it is no longer needed as part of the audit process.

Resolved:

- a) The Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 is agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

- b) The Accounting Statement for 2014/15 was approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair.
- c) The Committee noted the report.

Actions/further information to be provided: None

Committee next steps: None

20/15 TRIP BOAT PURCHASE - DECISION PAPER [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

James Taylor, Strategic Manager Basingstoke Canal – Surrey & Hampshire County Councils

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Members welcomed the proposal of a new canal boat stating that it would help promote the use and regeneration of the Canal. One Member stressed the pressing need to see interest in the Woking sections of the Canal. Officers informed the Committee that, should the boat proposed within the report be purchased, it would be posted at the Canal Centre replacing the current canal boat which would move down to the Woking area.
2. Members asked who will be running the new canal trips. Officers informed the Committee that the Basingstoke Canal Authority would run the new venture, with two thirds of the staff volunteers and the rest paid staff, some of which are existing employees that have relevant experience.

Resolved:

- a) The Committee agreed to authorise officers to purchase the second hand boat subject to the results of the survey, using funding from the BCA General Reserve, and authorised the BCA to run additional public trips on the Canal.

Actions/further information to be provided: Officers to keep the Committee informed as appropriate.

Committee next steps: None

21/15 BASINGSTOKE CANAL AUTHORITY RISK REGISTER [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

James Taylor, Strategic Manager Basingstoke Canal – Surrey & Hampshire County Councils

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Strategic Manager Basingstoke Canal – Surrey & Hampshire County Councils introduced the report and highlighted the work that has been done to improve and maintain the Canal's lock gates and culverts which has directly reduced the risk of failure. He added that pressure on Local Authority budgets has become high risk to the Canal as well as the inability to move forward with the Canal Centre redevelopment. The Committee were informed that future business plans would include mitigation of the risk posed by new pressures on Local Authority budgets.
2. One member stated that since the proposed re-development of the Canal Centre along the lines proposed at a JMC meeting last year would not be going ahead, it was important that a Master Plan for the site was agreed, so that some of the less capital intensive aspects of the original scheme could proceed without further delay. It was suggested that as the Surrey CC Estates Department appears to be central to the decision on the formulation of the Master Plan, the Estates Department should be invited to make a presentation of the Master Plan at the next JMC meeting on 29th October.

Resolved:

- a) The Committee adopted the Risk Register and agreed to keep it under review as a standing item on the Agenda.
- b) The Committee agreed to act, or authorise officers to act, where appropriate to mitigate risks within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Actions/further information to be provided: None

Committee next steps: None

22/15 BASINGSTOKE CANAL VALUATION REPORT [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Jo Heath, Head of Countryside – Hampshire County Council

Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Countryside Group Manager – Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Members asked officers when the Committee might expect a future business plan from the Basingstoke Canal Authority. Officers informed the Committee that the business plan is currently being drafted and will look at the whole Canal and Centre and will be presented to the February Committee.

2. Members asked that the full Basingstoke Canal Valuation study prepared by JBA Consulting be presented to the Committee. Officers agreed to do so.
3. Members expressed the view that the report was missing an analysis of health and wellbeing factors.

Resolved:

- a) The Committee endorsed the conclusions drawn from the Basingstoke Canal Valuation study prepared by JBA Consulting.

Actions/further information to be provided: Officers to present the full Basingstoke Canal Valuation study prepared by JBA Consulting to the Committee at a later date.

Committee next steps: None

23/15 MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE [Item 12]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Huma Younis, Scrutiny Officer – Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Some Members expressed the view that Fleet Town Council deserved voting rights on the grounds that they contributed the full amount to the Basingstoke Canal, whilst others felt that allowing Fleet full voting rights may encourage other Local Authorities to make the same claim.
2. There was a discussion around the fact that the Hart Parishes already had a representative and would therefore have two should Fleet be accepted. Some Members expressed the view that the Hart Parish Council representative, who sat on the Committee as a non-voting Special Interest Member, made an impact through lobbying the Committee and represented all Parishes in Hart well.
3. One Member highlighted that Fleet being elected as a full voting Member would shift voting numbers, with Hampshire Members having more than Surrey Members.
4. One Member expressed the opinion that as Hart had relinquished half of its liability to pay for the Canal, it should also give up one of its seats
5. There was a discussion around the need to allow other groups and local authorities to be considered. Councillor Stephen Gorys proposed that option (ii) in recommendation (b) of the report be amended to read as follows: 'to invite Fleet Town Council to submit an expression of interest for appointment as a special interest group and a voting Member together with other special interest groups and riparian

parishes, for consideration by the JMC at its meeting in October 2015'. The amendment was put to a vote and unanimously agreed by the Committee.

6. The Committee discussed the report's proposal that John Cale Canal Cruises' appointment as a Special Interest Group on the JMC should be considered to have lapsed, as the company had ceased trading and the reasons for the original appointment were no longer valid. This was unanimously agreed by the Committee, and therefore there was a vacancy for a special interest group representative on the JMC.

Resolved:

- (a) That Fleet Town Council be invited to submit an expression of interest for appointment as a special interest group and a voting member, together with other special interest groups and riparian parishes, for consideration by the JMC at its meeting in October 2015.
- (b) That a system of named substitutions for Joint Management Committee members be agreed, to take effect from the meeting in October 2015.

Actions/further information to be provided: Committee Clerk to circulate a named substitutions form amongst Members.

Committee next steps: None

24/15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 13]

The next meeting will be held on the 29 October 2015, 10am, Mytchett Canal Centre.

Meeting ended at: 12.30 pm

Chairman

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