

MINUTES of the meeting of the **BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at 10.05 am on 29 October 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 Elaine Still

Surrey County Council

Mr Ben Carasco
Mr Mike Goodman
Mr Colin Kemp
Mr Chris Pitt

Hampshire Districts:

Hart District Council

Councillor Simon Ambler
Councillor Jonathan Glen

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor David Welch
Councillor J H Marsh

Surrey Districts:

Guildford Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Jackson

Runnymede Borough Council

Councillor J M Edwards

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Councillor Paul Ilnicki

Woking Borough Council

Councillor K Davis

Special Interest Groups

Basingstoke Canal Society

Martin Leech
Mr P Riley

Parish Councils

Alastair Clark

Basingstoke Canal Houseboat Owners

Mr Denis Betro

Natural England

Adam Wallace

Inland Waterways Association

Paul Roper/Gareth Jones

Business Interests

Galleon Marine/Accessible Boating

Basingstoke Canal Boating Club

Steve Dallen

14/14 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN [Item 1]

Cllr Mike Goodman was elected to be Chairman of the JMC taking over from Cllr Keith Chapman.

15/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 2]

Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Gurden

16/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 25 JUNE 2015 [Item 3]

These were agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.

17/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]

There were none.

18/14 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 5]

There were none.

19/14 BASINGSTOKE CANAL AUTHORITY RISK REGISTER [Item 6]

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 in the discussion:

1. The Chairman of the Committee stated the three most important risks on the register were dredging, the failure of effectively implementing a canal-wide Business Plan leading to an inability to finance the management of the canal and thirdly engineering structures.
2. It was stated that funding will need to be looked at more carefully as the current economic case will not cover the cost of the Committee funding.

20/14 BASINGSTOKE CANAL SOCIETY REPORT [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Martin Leech, The Basingstoke Canal Society

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Officers were thanked for producing the report by the Committee. The Canal Manager expressed her views regarding focusing on the refurbishment of an overflow weir adjacent to the Deepcut top lock which had lead to leaks around the connected bypass. She stated this work has taken longer than expected and further work is needed.
2. Dredging was highlighted as a concern for the Society as it was no longer possible to continue running John Pikerton trips because of some sections had become particularly shallow resulting in loss of income.
3. It was stated that the dredging programme should be undertaken as soon as possible as it could soon become unavoidable within the next two years.

21/14 CANAL MANAGEMENT REPORT [Item 8]

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. The Canal Manager introduced the report by informing the committee theft has been an issue within the last few months as three vehicles had been broken into for equipment. They are currently considering doing weed cutting through the winter around the Woking area.
2. It was stated that there have been several leaks in the canal especially in the Woking area. It was informed the emergency service team dealt with these within a matter of hours.
3. Members questioned where the pollution source around the canal was coming from which was stated by the Canal Manager that they were currently undergoing research to find out where it is coming from.

22/14 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

James Taylor- Strategic Manager of Basingstoke Canal

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Strategic Manager of Basingstoke Canal- Surrey & Hampshire County Councils introduced the report and stated the Capital Programme has made greater in-roads into the works backlog in Surrey, than in Hampshire. Hampshire was suggested to be dominated by unexpected landslip at Dogsmerefield which has caused a serious effect on the budget.

2. Members were informed that no Capital Investments has been planned for after March 2017 and therefore it was suggested that further preparation should be undertaken to take into account any possible unplanned issues.
3. It was stated that the largest allocated sums remaining in both budgets relate to dredging as the outstanding work still needs to be completed. A member asked how long behind schedule are we and what are the issues facing for the future. It was estimated that the work will take eight to ten weeks to be completed.

Resolved:

- The JMC will be provided updates of officer's actions inc completing the remaining capital programme through to March 2017, and implications beyond 2017.
- Officers will develop the BCA Operational Plan which will be submitted to this Committee for approval.

23/14 MYTCHETT CANAL CENTRE ORAL UPDATE REPORT [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Group Manager Countryside

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The report was introduced by the Group Countryside Manager of Surrey County Council who explained the redevelopment of the Canal Site. This was said to be costing 4.6 million. It was stated that the tourist attractions will be an additional cost which was said to be stated after communicating with neighbours.
2. The main aim of the redevelopment of the Canal Site was said to improve visitors attractions and to create a high income for the centre.
3. The committee expressed views on the potential plan of the redeveloped centre which has not yet been distributed to wider groups.
4. A member of the JMC asked where the funding will come from which the Chairmen stated would be bids into Leps (M3), Leader funding and grant funding. It was stated that the JMC has currently paid £100,000 into the design work of the redevelopment.
5. The Chairman of the JMC expressed views regarding the funding of the new building and will challenge the funding to come from the Council's budget after the Cabinet decision. The Chairman of the JMC will write to all Council's Chief Executives asking for the correct funding including Fleet Town Council as it was stated they have not paid.

Resolved:

1. The Committee resolved that a report will be produced regarding the redevelopment of the Basingstoke Canal Site by the next meeting in February.

24/14 FINANCE REPORT [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers: Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasure, Hampshire County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Honorary Treasure introduced the report by briefing Members on the financial position of the Basingstoke Canal Authority. It was stated that the JMC had received £22,000 grant from shared work spends throughout the year. There will be £33,000 cut within the budget due to Fleet Town Council not paying the contribution. It was debated whether Fleet Town Council should have a seat on the Committee.
2. It was stated that the outturn forecast shows the Canal will draw £39,996 from the reserve during 2015/2016 which was said to be £33,004 less than budgeted.
3. The Chairman of the JMC stated that he will challenge that the funding should come into the Council's budget. However it was stated the Cabinet will decide this.

25/14 REPORT ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE JMC [Item 12]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers:

Bryan Searle, Senior Manager (Cabinet, Committees & Appeals Surrey County Council)

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The report was introduced by the Senior Manager of Surrey County Council who stated the request from Fleet Town Council to become a full voting member of the JMC. Some Members expressed the view that Fleet Town Council deserved voting rights on the grounds that they contribute the full amount to Basingstoke Canal, however others felt that allowing Fleet full voting rights would not be correct as it would encourage Local Authorities to make the same claim.
2. One Member highlighted the opinion that as Hart had relinquished half of its liability to pay for the Canal, so should give up one of its seats to make the process fair.
3. A member stated however that now Fleet have been elected as a full voting Member they would have to shift voting numbers with Hampshire County Council will now have more than Surrey County Council.
4. It was agreed that Woking Borough Council will be elected a seat once checked with the Chief Executive. The Chairman invited the three potential Special Interest Groups to speak for two minutes about their groups.
5. It was agreed by the JMC that Gallon Marine Boatyard Limited Liability Partnership were appointed as an advisory role for the JMC. A

Member stated that they are open all Special Interest Group ideas even those who didn't get selected.

Resolved

1. The Committee reviewed its current membership and agreed to allow Fleet Town Council and Woking Borough Council a seat on the JMC.
2. The Committee appointed Galleon Marine Boatyard Limited to the JMC in an advisory role.

26/14 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 13]

The next meeting will be held on the 25 February 2016, 10am, Mytchett Canal Centre.

Meeting ended at: 12.33pm

Meeting ended at: Time Not Specified

Chairman