

**MINUTES of the meeting of the BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at Colt Hill Wharf, Colt Hill, Odiham, HOOK, Hants, RG29 1AL on 28 June 2018

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting 22 November 2018.

**Hampshire County Council**

- \* Councillor John Bennison
- \* Councillor Andrew Gibson
- \* Councillor Anna McNair Scott
- \* Councillor Charles Choudhary

**Hart District Council**

- \* Councillor Simon Ambler
- \* Councillor Wendy Makepeace-Browne

**Rushmoor Borough Council**

- \* Councillor Nadia Martin
- Councillor John Marsh

**Fleet Town Council**

Councillor Peter Wildsmith

**Special Interest Groups**

**Basingstoke Canal Society**

- \* Mr Martin Leech
- \* Mr Philip Riley

**Parish Councils**

- \* Mr Alastair Clark

**National Trust,**

**River Wey and Godalming Navigations**

- \* Mr John Gibson

**Surrey County Council**

- \* Councillor Mike Goodman
- \* Councillor Ben Carasco
- Councillor Paul Deach
- \* Councillor Colin Kemp

**Guildford Borough Council**

Councillor Nigel Kears

**Runnymede Borough Council**

- \* Councillor Stephen Dennett

**Surrey Heath Borough Council**

- \* Councillor David Lewis

**Woking Borough Council**

- \* Councillor Kevin Davis
- Councillor Deborah Hughes

**Natural England**

Mr Adam Wallace

**Inland Waterways Association**

- \* Mr Gareth Jones

**Basingstoke Canal Boating Club**

- \* Mrs Liz Murnaghan

**Galleon Marine**

- \* Mr Arthur McCaffery

**118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 118]**

**218 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: [Item 218]**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**318 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 318]**

**418 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 418]**

There were no questions or petitions received.

**518 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTIONS TRACKER [Item 518]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None

**Officers:**

Richard Plummer, Democratic Services Officer

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Members noted and approved the forward work plan and actions tracker.

**Actions/ further information to be provided:**

1. None

**Recommendations:**

1. None

**618 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2017/18 [Item 618]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None

**Officers:**

Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasurer, Basingstoke Canal Authority, Hampshire County Council

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Officers highlighted key points, explaining that the input to reserves for the year 2017/18 had been greater than expected. It was explained that reasons for this were a combination of increases in income, reductions in expenditure but mainly the delay of the tree survey, which would be undertaken in 2019.
2. Officers noted the draw on capital funding from Hampshire was primarily focussed on repairs to the Dogmersfield landslip in 2017/18.
3. It was explained that the levels of reserves were at an acceptable level to cover contingencies, highlighting that the service expected reserves at the end of 2018/19 to be approximately £550,000.
4. Members questioned the Surrey estates policy, and why income from houseboat moorings and Canal cottages was not returned to the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA), nor reported in the accounts. The Vice-Chairman noted that Surrey County Council policy was Surrey Property Services acted as the corporate landlord for the Council and that income currently goes to them. It was suggested that a final decision on houseboat income should be made clear and that this would be presented to the Committee.
5. Members asked whether future finance reports could include background income that does not necessarily go directly to the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA), but effects the commercial viability of the canal, as part of the finance report.

**Actions/ further information to be provided:**

1. That a decision from Surrey County Council regarding the status of houseboat income and its allocation to the BCA or Surrey Property

Services be made and presented to the Committee in November 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That future finance reports include background income, such as that from houseboat revenue, as part of the overall finance report.

**718 CANAL MANAGEMENT REPORT [Item 718]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None

**Officers:**

James Taylor, Strategic Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority  
Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Officers outlined the work that had been undertaken by the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) since November 2017. It was particularly noted that the lock gates scheduled in the cyclical replacement programme had been undertaken and that there had been a drain down of the St John's Lock Flight undertaken for Principle Inspections. It was also noted that a bat hibernation survey and engineering inspection of Greywell Tunnel had been completed.
2. Officers highlighted that ten tonnes of Signal crayfish had been removed from the canal as a means of pest control. It was noted that the Canal had an agreement with a fisherman who removed the crayfish gratis for the BCA, but that he kept all profits from selling. It was noted that the service was potentially reviewing this, but stressed that this was a pest control measure and not a profit making scheme. It was noted that levels of damage and reported numbers from crayfish had decreased significantly.
3. Officers highlighted that there had been a boating accident at lock 18 involving irreparable damage to one of the lock gates. It was noted that this had resulted in closure of Deepcut lock flight for approximately 6-8 weeks.
4. It was explained, after concerns were raised by Members, that there have been badger evictions that had been undertaken humanely and using appropriate means under the appropriate licences.
5. Members raised concerns regarding cyclists and potential adverse effects of cyclists on other users of the canal, questioning whether there was potential for a campaign to slow cyclist speeds and increase awareness. Officers highlighted that cyclists use the towpath by permission and that the towpath was not a right of way. Officers also noted that they had been educating cyclist to slow and share the towpath under the "Share the Space, Drop your Pace" slogan for

some time, and that there was funding available for additional signage, but that there had been little evidence of effect on a proportion of users. Officers noted that destination signing which had included times had been removed as previously requested by the Committee. Members suggested that there needed to be an effort to educate users regarding fair usage and safety. Members suggested that the Committee receive a further report on cycling strategies and issues raised from cyclists to a future meeting of the JMC.

6. Officers noted the positive contribution of volunteers on the canal and that there had been a contribution of approximately £86,000 worth of volunteer hours on the Canal. Officers also offered congratulations to the Basingstoke Canal Society on achieving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2018.
7. It was explained that there had been a leak near Farnborough in May 2018 which was being repaired before the Air show.
8. It was noted that there was work being undertaken on the campsite development agreed at the November 2017 meeting of the JMC, noting that the planning application was due for submission in the near future. It was noted that progress had been slower than expected due to the size of the site and the additional requirements resultant of this.
9. Officers provided an update on the Conservation Steering Group (CSG) and the discussion held between stakeholders regarding issues in the renewal of this plan. One of the key issues discussed at CSG was in relation to powered boating and whether there could be any increase in the boating limit. It was stressed that Natural England have to agree this technical document and would be unlikely to suggest an increase to the powered boat limit due to concerns regarding silt displacement from boating being contributory to the continued decline of the status of the Canal as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).. Officers noted that the final plan agreed by Natural England would be submitted to the November JMC. Members noted that it would be helpful to have representation from Natural England present for discussion over their decisions in relation to the Conservation Management Plan.
10. Members suggested inclusion of progress of discussions with the Canal and Rivers Trust in future reports.
11. Members noted that the committee could consider options for clean air alternatives for boats on the canal and what options were available as part of a long term project.
12. Members suggested that volunteers and the BCA should note that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was promoting education for the environment, and that education about the benefits of the canal should be promoted. Members noted that District and Borough authorities could engage with volunteers on this issue.

13. Members queried progress on the online booking system. Officers noted that this would take time to develop but that it was in progress.

**Actions/ further information to be provided:**

1. That an item be included on a future agenda of the JMC regarding a cycling policy on the canal and the issues balance between cyclists and pedestrians.
2. That Natural England representatives be explicitly invited to the November 2018 meeting of the JMC to discuss the conservation management plan.
3. That future Management reports include an update on the progress of talks with the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT).

**Recommendations:**

1. None

**818 RISK REGISTER UPDATE [Item 818]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None

**Officers:**

James Taylor, Strategic Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Officers noted that the Risk Register had not been modified from the previous meeting and that it was appended to this meeting for information. Members had no further comment.

**Actions/ further information to be provided:**

1. None

**Recommendations:**

1. None

**918 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT [Item 918]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None

**Officers:**

James Taylor, Strategic Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority  
 Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Countryside Group Manager, Surrey County Council  
 Jo Heath, Head of Countryside, Hampshire County Council

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Officers highlighted projects planned in the future using Capital Funding from the two owning authorities. It was noted that there was work planned on bank protection, bed-lining at Crookham and at Scotland Bridge car park amongst other projects for 2018/19.
2. It was noted that most projects were safety related, but some such as Scotland Bridge car park were a spend to save opportunity, noting that following the completion of works the service was planning to implement charges to offset costs and improve revenue to the BCA.
3. It was explained by officers that there was currently a difference in allocated Capital funding between the two owning authorities, with Surrey County Council allocating less. It was noteworthy that this was the first instance in which there had been a difference between the allocations of the two owning authorities.
4. Officers noted that dredging had become a significantly more important issue, and that the service had allocated Capital funding to address this over the next few financial years. It was suggested that the Surrey profile was significantly less silted than that of Hampshire, but that the key requirements in the Surrey owned half was spot dredging.
5. It was noted that the current condition of the canal, which would be maintained through Capital funding, was good. It was further noted that the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) had also noted the positive condition of the canal.

**Actions/ further information to be provided:**

1. SCC agreed to see if they could increase their capital allocation to that provided by HCC.

**Recommendations:**

1. None

**1018 BASINGSTOKE CANAL SOCIETY REPORT [Item 1018]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None

**Witnesses:**

Philip Riley, Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Society

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. The Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Society noted that the Society had been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The Committee acknowledged that this was a significant achievement for the society and congratulated them on their work on the canal.

2. The Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Society highlighted work undertaken since November 2017, noting the Crookham Wharf work and Lengthsman scheme as key areas of success.
3. It was noted that the society had several projects planned for the future, including developing the Colt Hill Wharf. It was noted that plans were in discussion regarding this.

**Actions/ further information to be provided:**

1. None

**Recommendations:**

1. None

**1118 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 1118]**

The Committee noted that its next meeting would be on 22 November 2018.

Meeting ended at: 11.45 am

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**Chairman**

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