

Inland Waterways Association – North West Region

Committee Meeting held **Wednesday March 11th 2015 at 7.00pm at Sankey Valley Heritage Centre WA11 0AB**

MINUTES

Present: Peter Bolt (Chester) Alan Davies (Lancs & Cumbria), Colin Greenall (Chester & Scars), Alan Platt,(Chairman) Dave Smallshaw,(Chester & Scars) Steve Connolly (Manchester), Mike Haig (Shrewsbury)

Apologies for Absence : David Smith, Gillian Smith, Mike Carter, Michael Limbrey.

2 – The minutes of the Oct 14th 2014 meeting were agreed and approved.

3 – Matters arising

– Magazines, Manchester and Lancs & Cumbria had both found new people to help with the magazines and they would continue as separate for now.

-Manchester was still looking for a Treasurer and Chairman, but Steve had some more support and was managing at present.

4 – Branch and other reports, these were touched on for important matters, the use of waterways.org.uk aliases were touched on (advice from HO pending) , Manchester had their own alias website. It was commented that replies to aliases showed the personal email addressed (HO informed by AP after the meeting)

Alan D gave a verbal report following on from that day's committee meeting, also attended by Alan P, and reported that following that meeting and the addition of a new member to the committee, he was feeling more optimistic. This was echoed by Alan P and the branch, while still weak, is less so than before. There are meetings with CRT and a local construction company to finalise a joint adoption of a length of the L&L.

Steve Connolly expanded on Manchester's report to ask the rationale behind the byelaw the AGM's must be held by May 31st in a year, as he thought an autumn AGM could be positive in term of recruiting committee members.. Alan P said he would take it up (result - there seems no real reason as long as there is an AGM every year.) He also suggested an annual region award for the best volunteering project. It was agreed this was a sound idea and would be developed for 2016.

5- Lancashire Canals Legacy – Progress on fitting out the two containers donated by St Helens and Halton Councils was progressing and when costs were finalised, SCARS would apply for their agreed grant which would amount to less than the agreed £3000. It was agreed room would be found for Manchester work party kit as agreed, and Steve stated a preference for the Blackwood one which Colin would try and accommodate.

Other applications were invited, L&C might want some for the Lancaster and Interpretation boards for the Stockport were mentioned. Alan P invited solid bids. Nothing further had materialised re Mike Carter's idea last time for educational materials.

6 – Region meeting at Eldonian – April 25th

Alan P said bookings a bit thin to date (16 as of 13 Mar) and Mike H said he would circulate the flyer to all the committee for them to spread the word (since done). The menus were discussed and Alan P said Mike C had advised that a vegetarian option would be available. It was agreed that the choice would be left to Mike and Alan when numbers were firmer on the basis that we wanted a reasonable menu with spare funds to pay for the prize winners meals.

The trophies were discussed and it was agreed unanimously that the Kenwin Trophy for outstanding services by an IWA member would be awarded to David Smith and that Audrey should be invited to receive it on his behalf. The Tetlow trophy is for a non IWA person or group and after discussion it was agreed that this should go to 'Small Tasks Team Volunteers' who were a voluntary group working for CRT NW&BC, headed by Paul Mills and Maurice Ward.

Alan P would invite recipients to attend the region social (and was trying to arrange a modest cheque from SD&NW to go with the Tetlow. Steve would arrange for engraving and also seek advice on solving the full engraved panel on the Kenwin.

7 – Recording of Volunteer Hours; this now seemed to be acceptable to all, but the practicalities had yet to be tested. AP would enquire about recording of hours by corporate members eg Scars.

8 – Waterways Manifesto – This was discussed and agreed as desirable in principle but problematic in practice; all branches had received the guidance email from HO and would try to achieve what was practical.

9 -Promcom Peterborough Seminar – No one from the region could attend because of the location and timing but if it could be repeated in the Midlands would be happy to.

10 – Navigation Matters - Mike C's written report was noted, there had been no development on the Rochdale undercroft consultation . A submission objecting to the plan to fence off the offside of Marple Aqueduct had been submitted.

11 – AOB and next meeting. There were no items under AOB and the next meeting was provisionally fixed for Oct 22nd.

The chairman thanked Colin for the venue and refreshment, and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Alan Platt

17 June 2015