

# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

## IPSWICH BRANCH

### Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 at the Needham Market Community Centre at 2.00 p.m.

There were 10 members in attendance plus Chris Howes (Eastern Regional Chairman) and his wife Chris.

The Chairman Gerry Crease opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 44th AGM.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Charles and Pauline Stride, Brian and Diana Holt, Lewis and Mitze Tyler, Joan Finch and Janet Lock.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

The minutes of the 2017 meeting were approved then duly signed by the Chairman.

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

None

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The branch this year has continued to support the River Gipping Trust in its restoration programme. The Branch Annual Dinner was held at The Cedars Hotel Needham Market which was attended and enjoyed by 20 members. The Chairman's Award was awarded to Spencer Greystrom at the dinner in recognition of his many years service to the Ipswich Branch in various roles but mainly as Treasurer and organiser of many enjoyable weekend trips.

The Branch is proud that Chard Wadley was awarded the Cyril Styring trophy, the IWA's premier award, which was presented to him at the IWA's AGM. Chard has been an enthusiastic member of the IWA and was chairman of the Ipswich Branch for more years than most of us care to remember.

Further awards of the long service plaques for 50 years membership have been awarded to Mr & Mrs Wall, Mrs Jefferis, Mr. Cotterell, Mr Matzio and Mr. Jones. Congratulations to you all.

There continues to be a problem finding members willing to serve on the committee. Judith Pope from IWA Head Office has been trying to assist with solving this but, regrettably, so far, without much success.

Likewise, the committee's efforts to revive the social life of the branch have so far met with little success. The proposed coach trip has had to be cancelled as there was not enough interest to make it financially viable.

In a similar vein, the proposed new social programme of afternoon and day trips spread across the branch area and publicised to every member produced very little interest.

The transfer of waterways in the Eastern Region from EA to CRT is still stalled by the funding issue, it is clear that neither the EA nor the Broads Authority have the necessary funds to carry out the required maintenance work and that this is therefore not being done, leading to EA for example trying to close various structures on health and safety grounds. This has now reached the point where we are in real danger of losing navigation on some EA waterways in the region.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

At our first meeting after the AGM Gerry agreed to stand in as acting Chairman after Rod Mansel (our previous Chairman) resigned.

This year has not produced much activity for the Secretary as we have only had two Committee meetings and, because of the low turnout in 2016 there were no winter social events to organise for 2017. Although, I was on hand to support the Annual Dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and the Coach trip in May.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I wait for the monthly branch reports from head office and check for new members. If there are any I print a welcome letter and send them the latest edition of Anglian Cuttings together with car stickers.

In 2016 the year started with 393 members and 255 memberships and ended with 355 members and 234 memberships.

At the end of 2017, the year finished with 341 members and 227 memberships; that's a loss of over 50 members in two years or around 12%.

The poor attendance in the year 2016 has resulted in the cancellation of our social meetings in the winter months of 2017 and the subsequent coach trip for 2018.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Although Spencer resigned at the last committee meeting he had prepared the Accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 which showed a balance of £2892-49, with the only expenditure of £22-00 paid for the hire of the room for the AGM.

It was agreed at our last committee meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, that we would donate £750-00 to the Halesworth New Reach restoration group for the purchase of a professional brush cutter plus £1000-00 to the River Gipping Trust to insure the donated equipment for the next three years.

The remainder of £1120-49 has been returned to Head Office along with cheque books and debit cards.

#### ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Approved by John Finch and Seconded by Chard Wadley.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following statement was read out by the Chairman

As Spencer resigned as Treasurer at the committee meeting in January and in spite of many efforts by the current and previous committee members plus efforts from IWA HQ over the past 5 years to raise interest in the branch membership to form a committee to continue the work of Ipswich branch of the IWA it has become increasingly obvious, proved by the lack of interest of the branch membership generally, that to continue as a branch in its present form is impossible. Branch funds have already been transferred to the national treasurer, all bills and final transactions having been completed.

Myself, Carole & Dale duly offer our resignations on completion of the meeting and I will inform the appropriate officers at IWA HQ of the current situation. The trustees of IWA will then decide on the future of branch membership of the members of Ipswich IWA.

It only remains for me to thank all past and present committee members for their hard work and enthusiasm over the long life of the branch that have made it as successful as it has been for almost half a century.

The meeting closed at 2.20 p.m.

Chard Wadley addressed the members present and said what a sad day it was for the Ipswich Branch and thanked the committee for trying to keep the Branch going.

A reply from Chris Howes the Eastern Regional Chairman said unfortunately, he had only been in the position for three months and sorry he has not been able to help us but, thanked us for all our efforts. He said he was hopeful that he would try and resurrect the Branch in 2019.