

# INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

## IPSWICH BRANCH

### Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Needham Market Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

There were 13 Members in attendance.

The Chairman Rod Mansel, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Maggie and Roy Ford, Charles and Pauline Stride and Geoff Doggett

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved by Spencer Greystrong and seconded by Gerry Crease and were then duly signed by the Chairman.

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

None

#### CHAIRMANS REPORT

The branch this year has had some notable achievements, particularly in regard to supporting the River Gipping Trust in their restoration work. They have helped purchase a new dumper and trailer for the RGT.

The Branch Annual Dinner was held at The Cedars Hotel Needham Market which was well attended. The Chairman's Award was awarded to Chard Wadley at the dinner in recognition of his many years' service to the Ipswich Branch in various roles but mainly as Chairman.

The Branch also ran a very successful coach trip to Trentham Gardens, Etruria, National Memorial Arboretum and Churnet Valley Railway ably organised by Spencer Greystrong.

The Branch also ran a walk along the River Gipping on a Saturday morning to view the work done by the River Gipping Trust followed by a meal at the Chequers in Great Blakenham. There was only a small turnout but the walk was enjoyed despite the showery weather.

The Branch arranged for the Stowmarket Local History Group to give a talk on the Stowmarket Gun Cotton Explosion which occurred at the Safety Gun Cotton Works on the banks of the River Gipping. This was a very interesting talk illustrated with some haunting photographs of the immediate aftermath.

There was also a Fish and Chip supper and talk on a cruise along the modern Danube by Charles Stride with some very impressive photographs.

The Branch held a Christmas Quiz with the questions provided by Gerry Crease which also had a very poor attendance.

The Branch looked into the possibility of hosting the IWA Trail Boat Festival on the River Gipping in the future but it looks as though this is now unlikely to happen.

The Branch produced a response to the request for comments regarding the proposed Ipswich bridge crossings at the Wet Dock.

John Pomphret was appointed as the new Eastern Region Chairman and the Branch have invited him to attend the Annual Dinner as an introduction but have not yet had a response.

IWA Head Office also tried to raise some interest for a satellite branch in Norfolk and held a meeting for interested parties but the turnout was disappointing. However an IWA member has been found to take the place of Brian Holt on the Broads Forum.

There was also input to the Broads Authority Local Plan from IWA Head Office.

The transfer of waterways in the Eastern Region from EA to CRT is still being discussed but the necessary funding is still an issue. It is clear that both the EA and the Broads Authority do not 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. IWA Head Office is in the process of starting a campaign to fight the possibility of such closures by approaching local councils to point out the value of amenity waterways in their areas.

### SECRETARY REPORT

At our first meeting after the AGM Spencer agreed to stay on as Treasurer so, I continued with the Secretary duties assisted by Dale.

A copy of our meeting notes were sent to other branches but this ceased during the year as they can now be accessed via our web site.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The coach trip for 2017 is up and running with 41 people booked. Deposits have been collected and the profit from this will keep the branch running for another year. At present there is £3,500-00 in the bank.

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

The year started with 393 members and 255 memberships and ended the year with 355 members and 234 memberships, an average loss of 2 memberships per month.

### ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

They were proposed by Chard Wadley and seconded by David Middleton

### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Unfortunately our Chairman resigned. The other existing committee members were prepared to keep the Branch going in a very limited capacity. A meeting will take place to discuss the way forward.

### CHAIRMANS PLATE

At the end of the meeting the Chairman's last duty was to award the Chairman's Plate to Spencer Greystrom for his outstanding work as Treasurer and organiser of the annual coach trips.

Chard Wadley thanked the Chairman for his contributions over the last 2 years.

The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.