

## Worcester Canal Group

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Worcester Baptist Church

**Attendance:** Joy Squires (Chair), Julie-May Adams, Dan Daye, Michael Doyle, Graham Fowler, Alan Gordon, Clare Harker, Jackie Hollis, Matt Jenkins, Ken Moller, Jane Moorhouse, Peter Moorhouse, David Ritchie, Doug Rosewarne, Adam Scott, Ivan Smith, Bob Tannahill, David Wheeler. (George Squires for latter part)

1. Joy Squires welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that we had about 100 signed up members, and thanked Graham Fowler who had acted as her deputy in chairing many meetings in the year.
2. The Annual Report was circulated to those present and Joy highlighted the great work that had been done over the preceding 18 months. The many successes showed the commitment and skills of the active membership. She stressed the many projects which a range of different people had led. Also the great partnerships that had made it all happen, and emphasised the support of WBDCS and the City Council. In reply, David Wheeler said he was amazed at our progress and achievements.
3. Ivan Smith circulated his Treasurer's report, and noted that the main funding had come from Cllr Jenkins's County Council Divisional Fund, £750, and some very welcome individual donations. Funding had been at £796 at close of 2013. It now stood at £1196 after support from Worcester Arts Council, of which £1150 was committed to projects, leaving a remainder of £46. This emphasised the need for fund-raising events of which the Canal Festival was a good example. The raffle needs to be issued as soon as possible.
4. Election of Management Committee
  - a. Chair – Joy indicated her willingness to stand again (proposed by Julie-May, seconded by Adam)
  - b. Secretary - Adam said he wished to relinquish the role but in the absence of a nominee, agreed to continue on an interim basis (proposed by Julie-May, seconded by Alan Gordon)
  - c. Treasurer – Ivan said he wished to relinquish the role but in the absence of a nominee, agreed to continue on an interim basis (proposed by David Ritchie, seconded by Doug)
  - d. The addition of a formal post of Deputy Chair was agreed nem con, and Jane Moorhouse was nominated unopposed for the role by Julie-May and seconded by Matt Jenkins.
5. Review of Constitution
  - a. Equality and Diversity Policy. It was noted that the Arboretum Residents Assoc policy was appropriate for WCG. This was proposed by Ivan Smith and seconded by Julie-May and it was agreed that our constitution should be amended to include this policy (with final details to be agreed at the next monthly meeting).
  - b. Code of Conduct. (proposed and agreed as for above policy)

- c. Donations or membership fee? After some discussion, the clear consensus was that WCG should continue as an open membership organisation. However we should promote membership more, request donations more readily and find easier ways of receiving them. Donations should be acknowledged.

The *mailchimp* system of holding members electronic information seemed to be working well, except for those not on email, and it was noted that recipients could unsubscribe.

6. Looking Ahead, discussion on a mixture of current projects and new ideas

- Arts Projects- Three bridges planned, and Graham outlined the current thinking for design and execution
- Calendar – more photos needed
- Notice Boards, being set up and management now in place by David Ritchie.
- Canal Festival - This was our main priority and good progress being made on this highlight of 2015. Noted the need for volunteers, for more stall holders.
- Wildlife surveys – could be a mix of monitoring specific site and surveying broader areas. Links to be made with Worcs Wildlife Trust. Good to organise future guided walks.
- Benches -Jane needed offers for transport from Kingsford Wood Mill, suggestions that CRT could help.
- Liaison with Canals & River Trust is essential, and it was noted that this had improved recently.
- Good progress on getting media interest and the new milestones provide a good opportunity for a press release.
- Recognition that the WCG could increase its local lobbying role on canal issues.

7. Meeting closed at 9.00 pm, room collection raised £16 (?)