

## WORCESTER CANAL GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at the Paul Pry

1. Present: Joy Squires, George Squires, Gerry Lowman, Jacky Hollis, Dan Daye, Richard Martin, Tim Booker, Jenny Barnes, Melanie Roxby Mackey, Ian Mackey, Matt Jenkins, Adam Scott, Graham Fowler.  
Apologies: Peter Moorhouse. David Ritchie
2. Minutes of last meeting
  - a. Matt has obtained permission from the county council for access for wildlife monitoring to the piece of wild land behind the tip.
  - b. Graham described the work he and Andy Graham had done to assess habitat improvement at Diglis.
  - c. Brambles at Wickes- Joy has checked who is responsible for clearing needles etc. It is privately owned .
  - d. Memorial to Alan Hollis- Tim will install a bench at Lansdowne park.
3. Chairs update
  - a. City Masterplan- this is on the verge of being approved. It has a section called Canal Side. There will be a need for us to keep on top of planning applications as development for new housing is sure to follow.
  - b. Riverside Park- a project that has been worked on for some time and is now nearing completion. A landscape architect will be appointed soon. Again, important that we have a say in how this progresses.
  - c. Keepax bridge- £3m allocated toward this . As yet no public consultation has taken place.
4. Perdiswell Wildlife Survey-
  - a. Interesting discussion about our wildlife work. Tim described how the CRT are planning to dredge sections of the canal in Worcester this year. There will need to be testing to ensure that the soil is not contaminated but the possibility exists to use the material dredged up to create solid habitats.
  - b. Mel and Ian described their involvement with Offas dyke. Using the QR code on plastic tags at regular intervals it is possible to take and store photos all year round so that a usable resource is built up. This has to be something we could try to replicate, perhaps using the totem posts the CRT have at regular intervals along the canal.
  - c. For the Monitoring event itself it was agreed that:
    - i. This will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> we will have access to the County Council owned land behind the tip.
    - ii. Dan to book the Wanderer for that weekend.
    - iii. Joy and Graham to adapt the Gheluveldt Park monitoring form into a form/flyer for Perdiswell. Promotion of the event in the newsletters Joy and Matt circulate.
    - iv. Tim to contact the Explorer Volunteers to involve local schools

5. Festival Update
  - a. Mel and Ian represent the Chesnut Community Action Group. They described the work being done toward a festival. It is much more local and child friendly than the last festival. For instance there will be cookery and local archaeology and a separate children`s area. Wide spread approval for this approach. CCAGWorcester.com is the website. They are very keen to work closely with the canal group and were invited to attend our future meetings.
6. Update on Canal group activities
  - a. St Pauls- have booked the Wanderer once a month until September. The little garden has been prepared and is ready for planting with shrubs.
  - b. The Wanderer- meeting last week. Dan will book for the Festival, for the Wildlife monitoring, the Litter pick and for work on tree root removal
  - c. The CRT are replacing signage on the poles which all need treating
  - d. Litter picks are ongoing
  - e. There was an end of project presentation for the Ring Arts Project which Joy attended.
  - f. The Fish Pass project is due to start soon.
  - g. There will be a meeting of the Worcester Canal Corridor Group next week. This will be important as funding for biodiversity will be discussed.
7. Treasurer`s Report
  - a. £13 petty cash
  - b. £285.74 in the account.
  - c. Membership of the Arts Council has lapsed. Agreed to renew it. Joy was reimbursed for the outlay on WBDCS membership which provides our insurance.
8. Date of next Meeting

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 7.15 at THE PAUL PRY