

Worcester Canal Group

Minutes of (Zoom) meeting held 8th September 2020 at 7pm

Present: Jackie Hollis, Cllr Matt Jenkins, Helen Fairest, Graham Fowler, Stuart Minchin (City Council), Cllr Jenny Barnes; Cllr Joy Squires (Chair), George Squires (Treasurer), David Ritchie, Cllr Margaret Rowley (WBDCS), Karen Lewing

Apologies: None received

1. **Minutes** of last meeting and matters arising not on agenda: minutes approved and no matters arising.
2. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - George reported that he had ordered the bench made of recycled plastic at a cost of £630.90. Cllr Matt Jenkins is covering £552 of this through his Divisional Fund., leaving a contribution of £78.90 from Worcester Canal Group funds. Bench to be delivered to CRT in Diglis.
 - £226.90 remains in the WCG Nationwide account. Nothing in Petty Cash.
3. **Member updates:** Stuart Minchin gave an update on the Festival of Water to be held at Perdiswell, August Bank Holiday 2021. Progress is being made on CRT's purchase of land at Perdiswell to create a 'winding hole' to allow boats to turn around without having to travel all the way to Tibberton. Stuart hopes that WCG will help with the Festival and will be in touch before the end of the year to firm up plans.
4. **Natural Networks update:** Graham reported that Worcester Canal Group had registered with Natural Networks and that Jasmine Walters from Natural Networks had carried out a Biodiversity Study of the canal corridor through Worcester. She had divided the canal into four areas: Inner city/Diglis; Lansdowne; Astwood and Perdiswell/Offerton and had provided thoughts and ideas on what could be achieved to enhance biodiversity in each section. Graham explained that the Biodiversity Study had been shared with the agencies that comprise the Worcester Canal Corridor Project Group and agreement had been reached that Graham would identify short – term and longer-term projects that could be developed from the Biodiversity Study. He has circulated these project proposals to members of the Canal Corridor Project Group for them to develop and bring back for agreement with the Canal Corridor Project Group at its next meeting on 4th November. One of the short-term projects was to plant fruit trees along the canal by the Westbury Street Pocket Park, an idea suggested by Cllr Jenny Barnes. **Jenny agreed to progress this proposal. It is hoped that members of the Canal Group will volunteer to help once these projects materialise.**
5. **Further Member updates:**
 - Helen reported on the new 'Bog Toilet' at Bramblewood, which was working well. Bramblewood was open over the summer on Saturdays. Helen was hoping to secure a contract with the 'Recovery College' to run wellbeing sessions.
 - Margaret updated on meetings of WBDCS, also being held on Zoom currently.
 - Matt reminded us that litter picks were back again on the last Saturday of the month and that all were welcome to take part.
6. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 25th November at 7pm, probably by Zoom.