

# Worcester Canal Group

## Minutes of (Zoom) meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm

---

**Present:** Jackie Hollis; Cllr Matt Jenkins; Graham Fowler; Stuart Minchin (City Council); Joy Squires (Chair); George Squires (Treasurer); Cllr Jenny Barnes; Clare Harker; Sunil de Sayrah; David Ritchie

**Apologies:** Helen Fairest; Gerry Lowman

1. **Minutes** of last meeting and matters arising not on agenda: Minutes approved. No further update on Matt's bench. It was noted that Tim Booker no longer worked for CRT. Stuart Minchin would forward details of new CRT contact to Joy. As a new member, Sunil asked for more information on the Canal Group's area of responsibility and activities. Arising from this, Graham said he had identified two volunteers from the Duckworth Trust who would be willing to train as Helms for The Wanderer Community Boat. Graham to put them in touch with the new CRT Manager. Matt also said he would contact the two volunteers with the canoe to ask them to join litter picks as often as they could, in an attempt to tackle litter accumulating in the canal.
2. **Arrangements for Worcester Canal Group AGM:** date agreed as Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm. Joy to investigate availability of Paul Pry, assuming relaxation of Covid restrictions. Agreed to invite the new CRT Manager. Prompted by comments from Graham and Sunil, it was agreed to invite Sheena Payne Lunn to talk about the history and industrial heritage of the canal in Worcester and to publicise this widely. Joy to follow up on these. Matt to do publicity.
3. **International Day of Biodiversity 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021:** Graham reported that Worcestershire Wildlife Trust could no longer participate fully in our planned 'bio blitz' activities because of Covid related protocols. Graham proposed a more limited set of activities, based around Bramblewood, his allotment and the Westbury Pocket Park between 2pm and 6pm. Graham and Joy to work up publicity, monitoring forms etc. Matt to publicise with request for people to register so that we could remain Covid-secure. Volunteers needed to be available throughout the afternoon, with reference books and magnifying glass, to help survey of wildlife in these three areas. Joy reported that the last she had heard from the City Council was that they would use their Comms team to promote International Biodiversity Day and suggest ideas for what people could do in their own gardens to promote biodiversity.
4. **Updates:**
  - a. **Fruit trees project** – Graham reported that he, Jenny, Clare and Sunil had all helped clear the area near the entrance to the Marina and trees has been planted there. He also noted that Tim Booker had managed to install two 'floats' near to the Commandery but was unsure if these had been planted up. To discuss with new CRT Manager.
  - b. **Inland Waterways Festival:** Going ahead August Bank Holiday weekend and Stuart is looking for volunteers to help with activities along the canal (heritage trail), in Lansdowne Park and to staff a stall at the Festival about volunteering in Worcester – Find it Do it.
  - c. **Litter picks** – resumed on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March with a record turnout of 30+ volunteers! The litter pick at the end of April reverted to the normal turnout of 10/12. Matt asked for anyone with photos of litter picks or other activity on the canal to send them to him so that he could get them to the city council for their volunteer event later in the year. Jenny suggested that the Group could nominate a 'litter pick hero/es' to recognise volunteer effort during the pandemic. This could tie in with city council event.
  - d. **Noticeboards** – Dave will include posters about International Biodiversity Day and other events if we send posters to him.

5. **Financial Report:** Worcester Canal Group has a total of £504.07 in its account. Of this, £277.17 is ring-fenced for the fruit trees project leaving £226.90 as unrestricted.
6. **Any Other Business:**
  - Stuart reminded us that the city council has a 'Poster Round' at the start of each month listing volunteer events and activities. Posters need to include the city council logo and arrive with Stuart by the last week of the month.
  - Joy did not mention this at the meeting but wishes to record in the minutes that Margaret Rowley, who had attended our meetings and is a key link with other Canal societies, lost her husband suddenly a few weeks ago and Joy had sent a card on behalf of the Canal Group with our condolences.
7. **Date of next meeting:** AGM, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7pm hopefully at the Paul Pry.