

Worcester Canal Group

Minutes of (Zoom) meeting held 24th March 2021 at 7pm

Present: Jackie Hollis; Cllr Matt Jenkins; Graham Fowler; Stuart Minchin (City Council); Cllr Joy Squires (Chair); George Squires (Treasurer); Gerry Lowman; Cllr Jenny Barnes; Helen Fairest

Apologies: David Ritchie

1. **Minutes** of last meeting and matters arising not on agenda: Minutes approved. No further update on Matt's bench.
2. **Updates:**
 - a. **Fruit trees project** – Graham updated the meeting on progress. 20 trees planted between Lansdowne Bridge and Westbury Street Railway Bridge, further trees planted in Bramblewood. Platform Housing staff helped plant 2 trees by the Blockhouse. An Apricot tree has been planted in the Creating Links Garden (Gerry's group). It is hoped that CRT will plant trees in the dredged material.
Graham and Jenny were planning to work on clearing the area by the entrance to the Marina. Helen offered the following trees to anyone who wanted them: Guilder Rose' Field Maple, Spindle. Joy said she has an oak sapling if anyone would like that or could think of a good place to plant it.
 - b. **Inland Waterways Festival:** Going ahead August Bank Holiday weekend and Stuart is looking for volunteers.
 - c. **Creating Links Group** – Gerry needs red paint to complete a mural by the garden and donations of plants and shrubs welcome.
 - d. **Litter picks** – to resume Saturday 26th March. Joy raised issue of litter in canal and Matt agreed to put out an appeal for a canoe to help with that. We noted that we cannot make use of The Wanderer unless we can identify someone to become a helmsperson.
 - e. **Noticeboards** – nothing to update
3. **International Day of Biodiversity 22nd May 2021:** Graham set out plans to conduct a day of 'bio-blitz' activities at different parts of the canal/ canal corridor (Bramblewood, Allotments, a stretch of the canal) to intensively monitor the wildlife present. He is working with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust on this. We noted the need for publicity and a proper plan.
4. **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust** – Wilder Worcester Project: Joy outlined her discussion with Nick Packham of WWT about the Wilder Worcester project. WWT are bidding for funds to roll out a programme of community engagement and practical support to groups and individuals to become more aware of and enhance biodiversity across Worcester as a whole. He had asked Joy for a letter of support from the Canal Group. This was agreed.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** George reported that the group has £504.07 in the account. The Crowdfunder amounted to £410.84 after purchase of trees (£183.92 so far) and a donation of £50 towards the trees from the Arboretum Residents' Association. Graham pointed out that we must ringfence the money raised for purchasing trees.
6. **Any Other Business:** Stuart told us the Worcester Show would be held at Pitchcroft instead of Gheluveld Park.
7. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 11th May 7pm, via Zoom