

Worcester Canal Group: Minutes of meeting held 18th January 2023, 7pm at Worcester Guildhall

Present: Joy Squires (Chair); George Squires (Treasurer); Cllr Matt Jenkins; Louise Robertson (Worcester City Council community engagement team); Helen Fairest (Bramblewood); Liz Yorke (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust); Julie-May Adams; Christine Hurst; Mark Hurst; Cllr Jenny Barnes

Apologies: Graham Fowler; Clare Harker; Jackie Hollis

1. Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes** of last meeting (AGM) noted. No matters arising.
3. **Worcester Canal Group Constitution: proposed changes (see paper attached).**
 - George talked through the constitutional changes around finance that are necessary to accommodate the rules of Santander Bank should WCG open an account with them. The meeting AGREED the following change: **Section 7. Finance: c)** to read "Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and/or one other member nominated as a signatory on the account."
 - George then proposed further changes to the Constitution to allow greater flexibility around meetings:
 - o **Section 8 Annual General Meeting d):** to read "At least five members must be present for the Annual General Meeting and any other General Meeting to take place."
 - o **Also Section 8 b)** to read: "All members shall be given at least seven days notice of the AGM and shall be entitled to attend and vote"
 - o **Section 9 General Meetings: a)** to read "There shall be a minimum of three General Meetings, excluding the AGM, each year.
 - o **Section 10: Special General Meeting:** to read: "A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or five members to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give members at least seven days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed."

All these changes were approved unanimously by those present.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Current position - £324.69 total, of which £226.92 is ring fenced for trees.
5. **Updates:**
 - a. **Canal history and heritage project.** It now seems highly unlikely that the Inland Waterways Association will pursue the idea of a Worcester canal arts trail as a legacy project. Joy suggested that WCG might want to resurrect the idea we had to undertake a project charting the history and heritage of the Worcester canal, using research by Sheena Payne Lunn as a starting point. The meeting agreed that Joy should take this forward in the first instance by asking for volunteers from our mailing list and setting up a meeting with those who come forward.
 - b. **Litter picks** – ongoing and well supported. Matt will book The Wanderer for a session in the summer, after nesting season. Matt said that we should be looking at having our own stock of litter pickers and other equipment so that we are not dependent on the Duckworth Trust to provide everything. Matt was asked to bring suggestions and costings to a future meeting.

- c. **Fruit trees project** – we talked again about how best to protect the trees we have planted. Julie May will talk to Graham to see if some materials she has at home might be suitable.
 - d. **Wilder Worcester project** – Liz told us that the project, due to end in March, had secured a further three months funding. We talked about the possibility of having a joint project with the Arboretum Residents' Association before the larger project ended. Liz suggested that some properties in the Arboretum are ideally suited for swift boxes. It was agreed that Liz should pursue this idea further with local RSPB groups who make the swift boxes, to identify costings and the logistics of installing the swift boxes. Matt may be able to help with his County Divisional Fund. Joy to contact ARA.
 - e. **Arboretum Residents' Association** – we noted increasing levels of cooperation between WCG and ARA and expressed our wish to continue in this vein.
 - f. **Cathedral Eco Group** – Joy briefly described the activities and success of the Cathedral Eco Group.
 - g. **CRT** – Joy explained that it was proving difficult to engage with the new(ish) area manager.
6. **RSPB Garden Bird Watch** – it was agreed that we would ask Graham to set this up at the allotments. Joy to contact Graham to decide on day/date and then to circulate via Matt
7. **Any Other Business: None**
8. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 19th April 7pm venue to be announced (probably Worcester Guildhall)

JS 19/01/23