

# Worcester Canal Group AGM

13<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Worcester Guildhall

## Minutes

1. **Present:** Alex Mace, Karen Lewing, Matthew Jenkins, Joy Squires, George Squires, Liz Yorke, Clare Harker and Hannah Cooper
2. **Apologies:** Graham Fowler, Jenny Barnes, Margaret Rowley and Jacky Hollis
3. **AGM**
  - a. We were unable to get a guest speaker. Chris Dobbs couldn't make it but wants to come to a future meeting.
  - b. The minutes from last year's AGM and the last meeting were approved without comment.
  - c. **Chair's Report**
    - i. Joy said what a great group of people the WCG were. The group had done some amazing things. Joy was stepping down after ten, enjoyable years. Huge thanks to Graham Fowler, to George for the finances, and to Matt for the litter picks, comms and website.  
The cooperation with the ARA and WWT was really inspiring. We had done some great work over the years. But now it is time for new energy and ideas. Matt thanked Joy for leading the group for the past 10 years.
  - d. **Treasurer's Report**
    - i. View the [Treasurer's Report](#) and [Treasurer's Supplementary Report](#) online. We spent £165.67 more than we received.
    - ii. Matthew asked about membership of Worcester Arts Council. We are still a member, although we haven't paid for this year yet. As a member, we can apply for grants of up to £500.
    - iii. Joy pays WBDCS around £30 per year for insurance as a donation.
    - iv. We now have a NatWest bank account. George, Matthew and Graham are the current signatories.
    - v. George to check and confirm how much money is reserved for fruit trees.
    - vi. £250 from Karen Lewing's community fund, which is earmarked for litter-picking equipment. It was agreed that we will delay spending this to see what happens to the DWT, as this is where most of our litter picking equipment is from.
  - e. **Election of officers**
    - i. Chair: We discussed the role of the chair, including the relationship with the Canal Corridor group, which connects various agencies and focuses on the canal and waterways in Worcester. CRT has pulled out of the corridor group, but it is still a useful meeting of stakeholders. It was agreed that Karen would chair the Canal Corridor group, as she is chair of the Environment Committee at the city council. Karen and Alex will co-chair the Worcester Canal Group.
    - ii. Secretary: Graham is stepping down as vice-chair and secretary. The group thanked Graham for his work over the years. Matthew will take on the secretary role.
    - iii. Treasurer: George will continue in this role.
  - f. **Current projects**

i. Swift boxes

Undertook 3-4 monitoring sessions. WEG's Wilder Worcester project has money available for making swift boxes. If volunteers want to help make more swift boxes, we can spread the word. The swifts will be back in May, so they need to be installed before then. The next stage is putting them up. We will need permission. We need people to talk to residents who may want a box. They do not have to be east-facing. The ARA AGM is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, so can raise then – Liz Yorke can come along.

ii. Case studies and videos on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust website. These are a good way to signpost people to what is happening, including a map to show what is near you.

iii. TCV tree packs. As a community group, we can get several packs. It needs to be on publicly accessible land. Karen will talk to Harry Simms (tree officer). There was some concern raised by residents about the tree planting at the Lower Chestnut Street end of Lansdowne Park. It would be a good idea to contact residents in the future.

iv. Industrial heritage?

We could link with the Civic Society talk (see <https://www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk/event/annual-worcester-civic-society-lecture-our-canal-heritage/>). We probably need to break down this project into smaller tasks/projects.

v. Litter picks – ongoing.

vi. Possible project – more mural painting.

vii. Possible project – living art along the canal. Liz to follow up.

viii. Plant more fruit trees (that we have funding for).

ix. Get more people involved in the group.

**4. Canal Corridor group** – The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm. Joy to set this up.

**5. AOB**

a. Alex – how do get rubbish removed from the canal or Barbourne Brook? Karen suggested using the live chat on the CRT website.

b. Alex – the top bricks off part of the bridge by Gregorys Bank have gone missing. This needs reporting. It was suggested that both the CRT and the city council heritage officer should be informed about this.

c. The Worcester Canal Wildlife website is no longer required and will be closed, after copying content across to the main website. Matthew pays for the domain name, so will let George, as treasurer, know the cost.

**6. Date of next meeting** – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm. A possible location is the upstairs room in The Dragon. Clare to ask.

a. The officers agreed to have a meeting at The Chestnut on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm.