

Friends' of Exeter Ship Canal
DRAFT Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at The Exeter Canoe Club, Haven Road, Exeter

Thursday 3rd January 2019

Present:

John Monks (JM), Nick Hawker (NH), Ray Alexander (RA), Jack Nott (JN), Peter Nickol (PN), Martin Mather (MM), Richard Crisp (RC), Jane Evans (JE), Mike Jordan (MJ), Mike Grayshan (MG); Guy Parker (GP)

Guests: David Lockwood (DL)

Item No	Item
1.1	Apologies Mary Tempest
1.2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting Approved
1.3	Matters arising not included elsewhere in the agenda None
1.4	<p>Proposed Carnival on the Canal 2019</p> <p>JM opened by reminding that the Exeter Canal & Quay Trust (ECQT) had provided a grant of £7k in order to appoint a project manager (David Lockwood) to raise additional funding. In light of that, the Committee had agreed to continue with plans until the end of 2018 to determine the viability of a carnival. Both the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had declined funding on the basis that their core requirements were not met, but we could re-submit if and when appropriate. ECQT had indicated to JM that they were now minded to support the idea financially subject to satisfactory progress reports.</p> <p>DL noted that we would need to demonstrate that other partners were on-board and that the carnival would possibly be deferred until the autumn.</p> <p>Three areas volunteer input were highlighted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People to reach out to potential partners in the first instance; 2. Marshalling on the day; 3. A 'contact group' within the Friends. <p>MM expressed concern that there was a lack of actual ideas with which to engage potential partners. DL noted that the intention was to 'sell the canal' but that we needed to stay in control of the event, especially around the need for risk management and production values.</p> <p>In terms of risk and insurance, the respective responsibilities of the organisers and participants would be clarified. DL commented that further investigation was required in terms of actual risk.</p> <p>JM noted that ECQT required a report with some evidence/business plan by 4 March to assure the viability of the carnival.</p> <p>There was intent to try and assess interest in the carnival (from potential partners) and to work toward meeting ECQT's requirements by their deadline.</p>

	<p>A further suggestion was that the carnival be postponed until September 2020 in order to complete the planning and organisational requirements.</p> <p>Proposal: That the Friends would work towards meeting the ECQT's requirements in order to report back on 4 March.</p> <p>The proposal was carried.</p>
1.5	<p>Secretary's Report Nothing of significance to report</p>
1.6	<p>Finance – Treasurer's Report RA presented a receipts & payments report (excluding carnival items) for year to date as at 31st December 2018. Noted issues therein were marketing costs being significantly down on previous year and the cost of insurance being significantly higher. The level of insurance cover could not be reduced to effect a reduction in premium.</p>
1.7	<p>Membership Secretary's Report RC reported 35 current subscribers – 10 family; 24 individuals; 1 lifetime member. It was agreed that WEBCOLLECT would be maintained this year in order to automatically collect payments via Direct Debit from those who have elected to. The Committee was alerted to the fact that when the number of subscribers exceeds the threshold the provider would charge for their service. A review of whether to continue with WEBCOLLECT will be conducted.</p>
1.8	<p>Work Parties</p>
1.8.1	<p>Volunteer Co-ordinator role: JM presented MG with a gift in recognition of his work as volunteer co-ordinator. MG would now be retiring from the role and a replacement needs to be found.</p>
1.8.2	<p>Willow Clearing in January: MG informed that the next work party (to clear canal paths) would take place on Saturday 26th January, commencing 10am, meeting at the Double Locks. Confirmation would be sought from Colin Acton to go ahead.</p>
1.8.3	<p>Friends' Boat: Following the donation of a boat a plan was required to clean and renovate the hull. Colin Acton had agreed to storage and the Exeter Boat Owners Association were donating up to £1,000 to fund the work. GP was thanked for his work and support for the scheme. RA reported that helmsman training would probably cost around £200pp. JN doubted the usefulness of a boat as work parties were currently land-based. JE said it could make volunteering more attractive especially to members of the Rowing Club who preferred to be on the water. In any case, the boat could be sold if left unused, GP said.</p>
1.9	<p>Website & Social Media Postponed.</p>
1.10	<p>Exeter City Council Canal Strategy RA and JM had attended two meetings following the submission of the Friends' paper. Following the first stakeholders' meeting they had requested a direct meeting with the consultants, Arcadis, which was also attended by Victoria Hatfield and Steve Carnell. It became clear that the consultants' representative had not read the paper prepared. JM and RA both recommended that the consultants also spoke directly to JE and GP. JM was confident that at the meeting the key points were put across about seeing potential of the canal first and foremost as a waterway, but it remained to be seen how this will be taken forward. The consultants' recommendations are expected in February.</p>
1.11	<p>Reports from Other Groups Postponed</p>

1.12	<p>Programme of Meetings until the AGM It was agreed that future meetings, at least until the AGM in June, would take place on a monthly basis (whilst the carnival was under consideration) on the 2nd Thursday of every month. (See dates below.)</p>
1.13	<p>Transport Trust Red Wheel Scheme Postponed</p>
1.14 1.14.1 1.14.2	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Retirement of Chairman: JM indicated his intention to retire as Chair before the next AGM. FoESC would need to consider a replacement.</p> <p>Events: JM had been due to address the Exeter Lodge of Moose Internation Royal Order on 6 February but now had difficulty with this. No one was available to deputise. Likewise, speaking at the Exe Estuary Winter Forum, to be held on 5^t February, on the carnival. It was considered whether David Lockwood might do that.</p>

Next Meeting Dates:

Thursday 14th February 2019

Thursday 14th March 2019

Thursday 11th April 2019

Thursday 9th May 2019

Thursday 13th June 2019 – Provisional date of AGM ?