

Committee Meeting Minutes

18:30 – 28th March 2018, Custom House, Exeter Quay

Present:

Jan Evans (JE), Ray Alexander (RA), Jack Nott (JN), John Monks (JM), Mary Tempest (MT), Peter Nichol (PN), Simon Goddard (SG), Peter Kelly, Nick Hawker (NH)

Apologies:

Mike Grayshan

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

NH informed that Mike Grayshan was the only apology received.

3 To receive and approve minutes from the previous meeting – 18th January

The minutes were approved unanimously by all who attended the meeting dated 18th January.

4 Matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by an item below

None

5 Membership Matters

a. Renewals

NH informed that renewal notices would be despatched automatically from WEBCOLLECT. There were a small number to be collected manually.

b. Discount scheme

MT explained the difficulty of printing these vouchers, stressing the need for their quality to be high and identifiable by businesses offering discount to members of the Friends'. It was reported that Stuart Lines would offer 10% discount and that the Route 2 café would do likewise.

c. Data protection regulations

NH explained the issues with regard to GDPR. He would arrange for a notice to be sent via WEBCOLLECT.

d. Recruitment

There had been no interest expressed with regard to the membership secretary role. NH to pursue further.

6 To receive a report on financial matters

a. Current Finances

SG updated the meeting on the documents distributed with respect the current finances. SG also indicated his intention to step down as Treasurer at the next AGM.

b. 2018/19 Budgets

SG noted that very little had been expressed in respect of budgeted expenditure for 2018/19. Provision was to be made for volunteer activities in Mike Grayshan's absence. Otherwise there were regular amounts to be covered in respect of insurance, WEB site hosting, etc.

7 To receive an update on volunteer activities

Mike Grayshan was an apology from the meeting and so there was no update beyond JM noted that work was being planned in liaison with Exeter City Council. MT informed the meeting that 'Saddles & Paddles' were organising a plastics collection over the 7th/8th April.

8 To receive an update on activities

a. Canal Quiz

MT asked for assistance in suggestions for questions based around the canal to supplement those that were already in place around the basin, etc.

b. Craft Markets

MT would place a static display and leaflets around her shop. NH to deliver leaflets (from home) and sail (from store) to her shop.

9 Canal Development

RA referred to the paper he had provided.

a. Meeting with ECC, 23 February 2018

RA was pleased that the Council were encouraging the use of the canal. The Friends' should help promote the proposed charges on their WEB site.

b. Provision of a new slipway

RA reported that this would require a firm expression of interest from the Council. This would therefore, also require the full engagement of local groups. Such groups needed to be identified. RA emphasised the need for full consultation.

c. Assisting as volunteer lock keepers

Mike Grayshan and JM would familiarise themselves with the process in respect of becoming a lock-keeper. What was entailed, etc. they would then look for volunteers to take this role. There may be a small group available if 'live-in' boats were to be allowed. JM noted the importance of the Friends' being 'trusted' with this role.

d. Friends' report on the future of the Canal

JM reported that a management plan was being prepared by the Council. In respect of deadlines they were as follows:

- i. Officers Deadline - 17th May
- ii. Briefing Group - 31st May
- iii. Scrutiny - 14th June

The last week of April was quoted as the final opportunity for feedback. The focus was to be on 'Managing the Estuary' and 'The Future of the Canal'. The Friends' would put together a list of thoughts, but this needed to be done sooner rather than later.

Any final report was to be seen and commented on by the Friends'. JM and RA would liaise around this.

10 Exeter Canal Carnival

JB reported that any grant from the Exeter Quay and Canal Trust would need to be matched in respect of funding (refer to minute in the document distributed) but there would be further meeting shortly with a representative of the Trust. One possibility was to consider the carnival next spring. In response to MT's question, JM confirmed that an event organiser would be required.

11 Car parking proposals

JE reported that she understood that two car parks were to be changed to pay and display near the canal, one of which would utilise the temporary Environment Agency car park on playing fields near Salmon Pool Bridge. This should require planning permission to encourage public debate. Some research was needed around planning permission requirements.

12 Water Lance access strategy – proposed new bridge across the Canal

JM referred to a matter raised by Keith Lewis. Three routes had been proposed for new bridges across the canal. These would be intended for cyclists and pedestrians. There was no clarity, as yet, around which route, or routes, would be selected.

RA suggested there should be a policy decision by the Friends concerning the nature of any new bridge over the canal – e.g. that swing bridges should be electronically

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operated and suitable for boater operation, and no new fixed bridge should be lower than the M5 road bridge.

JM reminded the meeting that the clear objective of the Friends' was to increase the number of boats using the canal. In relation to this JE commented that there was a concern that the Council would impose a charge for recreational use of the canal but against this noted that there was a need to clear weeds and that the Kings Arms gates needed to be open more frequently. She called for a 'Service Level Agreement' if charges are introduced.

13 The Friends of Exeter Ship Canal AGM

JM noted that the next meeting should include an agenda item around planning for the Friends' AGM. This would be held on 8th June 2018.

14 Any Other Business

It was suggested that members of the Friends, especially those engaged with waterside activities should receive 'throw line training', possibly from the RNLI. JM would ask Mike Grayshan to pursue.

PN informed the meeting that he was leading a walk on the canal for the Civic Society.

JN Informed the meeting that Stuart Line were to do a video of the canal and asked if the Friends' might fund a camera. The meeting requested that JN find out the cost.

15 Next meeting

Tuesday 22nd May 2018