

Friends of Exeter Ship Canal – Committee Meeting
20 September 2018
at the Custom House, Exeter Quay, at 6.30pm

Notes of the meeting

In the absence of the Secretary summary notes of the meeting were taken by the Chair.

Present:

Ray Alexander (RA), Mike Grayshan (MG), Peter Kelly (PK), John Monks (JM), Jack Nott (JN), Mary Tempest (MT).

Other members of the Friends: Mike Jordan (MJ), Martin Mather (MM), Guy Parker (GP).

In attendance: David Lockwood, for item 4

1. Apologies

Richard Crisp, Nick Hawker. Subsequently, Peter Nickol who was unable to gain access to the Custom House.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting on 19 July 2018

These were approved.

3. Matters arising not included elsewhere in the agenda

There were none.

4 Proposed Carnival on the Canal

David Lockwood, project manager, presented a detailed progress report on his work on the vision, funding and timetable for the Carnival on the Canal. Discussions and suggestions followed with David and in committee after he left, after which it was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the carnival plans subject to confirmation of adequate funding by the end of this year.

5. Composition and remit of the Carnival Steering Group

JM proposed that consideration should be postponed until the next meeting which would be held before the end of November. He repeated that any member of the Friends who is interested in becoming involved in organising the Carnival should consider volunteering for the steering group. Agreed.

6. Friends of Exeter Ship Canal constitution

A full discussion took place on a draft constitution for the Friends. Among the detailed proposals discussed, provisions for postal and proxy votes at general meetings and the AGM were not agreed. The Committee then approved the constitution for adoption until the AGM 2019 which will be asked to approve it.

7. Secretary's report

Deferred in the absence of NH.

8. Finance

JM reported that the £7000 grant from the Exeter Canal and Quay Trust for the services of a project manager for the carnival had been credited to the Friends' account and the first payment made to David Lockwood. There had been some minimal spending on items of equipment for the previous work party.

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9. Membership

In RC's absence he was thanked for volunteering as Membership Secretary. NH will hand over to him as soon as they can arrange it. JM again urged members each to recruit one new member as a start towards increasing numbers. MM said he would distribute leaflets to homes around the Canal and JN said they could be available also at Topsham Museum. JM said that as soon as RC agreed the contact details to be added to the enrolment form a supply will be printed for uses such as MM and JN suggested.

10. Work parties

MG said the next work party will be at Double Locks on 20 October. It was agreed there would be refreshments at the Double Locks pub afterwards. It was hoped there will be a bigger turnout than on previous occasions. MG drew attention again to the fact that only a very small number of regular volunteers come forward, which he said was very disappointing. He reminded the committee of his decision to stand down as volunteer co-ordinator after October.

11. Website and social media

MT said she and NH were discussing the Friends' Facebook site that was set up by Mark Bloxham. He cannot be contacted to change the arrangements for administering the site.

JM paid tribute to Mary's unwavering support for the Friends and the fact that she had agreed to continue to assist with the Friends' social media output after her move to Teignmouth. On behalf of the committee, MG wished her well and presented her with a turned walnut bowl, which he had made.

12. Exeter City Council canal strategy

JM reported that David Bartram, Director, had confirmed at the beginning of September that the brief to consultants for the Canal asset condition survey and commercial masterplan had gone out and bids were awaited. David Bartram had also reiterated that the appointed consultants will be asked to meet the Friends.

13. Reports from other groups

These were deferred.

14. Arrangements for the next meeting

To be held in November.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.