

**MSCS – Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Stockport Labour Club at 2.00pm**

**Attended:**

Chairman: R Bravey

Treasurer: R Twigg

Secretary: P D O’Herlihy

Margaret Burns

Elizabeth Watson

Fay Bravey

Stephen Broadhead

Bernard Fawley

Bryan Pollard

Julian Hardstone

Dennis Coleshill

Stefan Bielecki

The Chairman thanked all those for coming and stressed need to move on as there was a lot to get through.

1. Apologies:  
Peter & Gwen Scott, Peter Burns, Graham Burns, Ian Moss. (and Patrick Moss)
2. Minutes of 2017 AGM:  
The minutes were proposed as an accurate reflection of that meeting by Stephen Broadstone and seconded by Fay Bravey.
3. Matters arising therefrom:  
Robert Twigg raised the matter referenced in pt. 8 and the Stockport Local Plan and it was agreed to allow the chairman to expand on this in his annual report in 4a.
  1. Annual reports: Annual reports:
    - 4a. Chairman: - The chairman divided his report into a number of sections as follows;
      - i. Litter-picking: our joint efforts in association with Sustrans indicate there has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the section between Clayton and Debdale. The first litter pick had produced circa 350 bags; whereas more recently, this had reduced to 70-80 and is now down to circa 40’s. there is still a rather ad-hoc arrangement re refuse collection but hopefully this will improve. Furthermore, there is improved interest from the local community along the canal line to Debdale. Building on this, a leaflet describing our short to medium term actions to continue this improvement was circulated at the meeting (a copy is attached).

- ii. Funding: attempts have been made to identify and pursue sources of funding.
- iii. Open Days: throughout the year these have been successful in attracting new members and events have taken place at Morrison's, Vine St. Park, Manchester Rd. Park, North Reddish Park and Clayton Hall and the Openshaw Festival.
- iv. Survey of the line of the former canal: this is still ongoing.
- v. Stockport Local Plan: the GMSF has been further delayed.
- vi. Line of canal and future development: It is important to keep the line clear of all future development. Unfortunately, the delay in progress on the Local Plan means the LPA rely on the 2006 position (the last approved Local Plan) and as such they have granted outline consent for 9 nos. new flats to the rear of Reuben Street, South Reddish, which will straddle the original canal line. The reason, apparently, why the LPA did not defer to the representations made by MSCS is that:
  - a. CRT were consulted as the Statutory Authority but offered no objection because the canal is not "listed on their assets"
  - b. The planning officers interpret policy L10 of the 2006 Local Plan as being as "an aspiration" and as such does not have sufficient "weight" to override current NPPF requirements. The chairman said we would need to be more robust and vigilant in identifying and opposing applications in the future.
- vii. CRT. Following the problems at Reuben Street, the Chairman made representations to CRT at the highest level. CRT have now advised that the Mcr- Stockport Canal is now a registered asset as a "proposed restoration". (apparently under BWB it was referenced as 'abandoned') - chairman said he hasn't seen proof of this yet.
- viii. Skills: still the need to attract new skills into the Society such as landscape architect, CAD skills on surveying, engineering. A plea for volunteers will be posted on our website and Facebook page.
- ix. CRT: need to investigate if CRT would contribute towards the materials to improve the canal corridor – there was a brief discussion on their promotion toward 'Wellness' etc.
- x. Funding: Margaret Burns offered to look into the possibility of obtaining funding from the Manchester Wards along the canal. It was believed each Ward had access to funding arrangements similar to Stockport's Area Flexible Funds.
- xi. GDPR was raised. Correspondence will carry an option to unsubscribe from receiving further information from the Society.

- 4b. No Secretary report as no meetings to report.
- 4c. Treasurer's report was given as a commentary to the written handout.
  - i. SB asked if the Society's bank details could be put on the website and in Facebook to attract further donations.
  - ii. IWA insurance was explained.
  - iii. Mr Fawley asked if we could get a link with Camra and possibly other micro-breweries (beer mats idea) etc.
- vi. Annual accounts: this was covered in 4c. above.
- iv. Subscriptions: several members paid their annual subscriptions to the Treasurer at the meeting.

6 + 7 Election of officers/committee members: there was an en-bloc re-election of the existing officers and committee members which were proposed by Bernard Fawley and seconded by Julian Hardstone.  
NB: 2 new members were also co-opted onto the committee – Dennis Coleshill and Steve Broadstone.

An open discussion took place in which a number of matters were raised such as maybe linking with the Macclesfield Canal Society, Hollinwood C S to produce a magazine.

An article in Waterways World could follow once we have proof that the Mcr-Stockport canal is formally shown as a registered asset by CRT – the chairman said he'd chase this up.

A further proposal was put forward to try to re-start the MSCS Newsletter (previously called "Lanky Cut") and to send this out to a wider audience. This would be online only to save costs.

The Treasure said that membership would remain as 1<sup>st</sup> January on the existing calendar year and that fees will remain at £2.00 p. a.

Membership: The Treasurer said that there were occasions where we had received large donations and, in these cases, it was put forward that the Committee give consideration to setting up a new category: this would be 'Life Membership'

End of meeting: 3.50 pm.