

MANCHESTER & STOCKPORT CANAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at Stockport Labour Club on Sunday 20th October 2019

Present

Chairman Roger Bravey
Treasurer Robert Twigg

Margaret Burns
Elizabeth Watson
Stephen Broadhead
Graham Burns
Fay Bravey
Dennis Coleshill
Stefan Bielecki
John Palmer
Philip Handscomb
Bill Lear
Norma Galloway

1. Apologies

Received from Peter & Gwen Scott, Patrick O’Herlihy, Bryan Pollard, Lloyd & Linda Robinson, John Bradshaw, Marie Purser, Michael McNamee, Peter Burns.

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

Correction to the minutes: under 4c iii Mr Fawley should read Mr Coleshill.
Otherwise the minutes were an accurate reflection of that meeting.
Proposed by Stephen Broadhead and seconded by Liz Watson.

3. Matters Arising

All items will be covered in the Chairman’s report.

4. Annual Reports

a) Chairman’s Report

Steady progress has been made this year.

i) Litter picks have continued each month along the line of the canal in Manchester, known as the Yellow Brick Road (YBR). It is considerably tidier than when we started two years ago.

ii) Schools: One of our medium term goals is to get schools interested in the YBR, its cleanliness and environs. Perhaps this coming year is the time to speak to the teachers and try and get their interest and support.

iii) Contacts have been made with Stockport and Manchester Councils. Two meetings were held with Stockport Councillors with a view to getting the canal line protected. The problem they have is that the Local Plan has to be approved by the Planning Inspector and with the current Government policy on sustainable development – meaning housing takes precedence – long term commitments to tying up land in this way will not pass scrutiny.

iv) Pocket Parks and Parklets: these are small areas which members of the public can identify for protection as green spaces. The YBR has been logged on the BEE network website by MSCS with a further proposal to be submitted for North Reddish Park. Comments in support of these parks are requested by the website and your support would be appreciated. (see MSCS website for details).

v) The offer of help from a planning policy member of staff has been made by SMBC. To date little has happened because the GMSF, upon which the Local Plan is based, has yet to progress. Because of the long term nature of the Stockport section and the uncertainty surrounding Authority support we are concentrating on the Manchester section to Debdale Reservoir.

vi) Abbey Hey Lane: development of land is causing problems concerning access across the canal at Hollybush Street. Representations have been made to councillors to consider alternative access in the future – it is too late to change the present development.

vii) A “brush bashing” day, our major event this year, is on 16th November starting at 9.30am at Claytonbrook Road. Waterway Recovery Group have agreed to assist us at this event.

vii) Canal Talk: The Chairman and Graham Burns gave a talk to Audenshaw Masonic Society which was well received. More talks could be an effective way of spreading the word. We now have a good format for a Powerpoint presentation.

viii) Membership: We are still desperately short on active members to assist at Open Days and other events. Even the occasional help would be appreciated, we are not necessarily looking for constant effort. Watch the website for an up to date programme and come along if you can.

ix) Leaflet: Margaret Burns has prepared a new design for the MSCS leaflet, which will soon be in use. Thanks to Margaret for her efforts in designing this new leaflet and obtaining quotes.

b) Secretary’s Report: there was none.

c) Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer tabled the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2019 and explained the entries. The accounts were approved.

Life membership for some members who have made large donations was discussed in committee in 2019 and agreed.

The draw for the 100 Club was made.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

All were willing to stand again and were elected en bloc.

Proposed: John Palmer, seconded: Stefan Bielecki.

Open discussion took place.

Varna Street School building, overlooking the aqueduct, is now an art centre. It would be useful publicity for MSCS and the Art Centre if they would consider decorating the metal panels of the aqueduct towpath with artists’ impressions of the canal. They were approached some months ago regarding artwork for the canal and we will approach them again concerning the aqueduct panels.

Margaret Burns thanked the Chairman for his efforts during the year.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm.