

# **MINUTES OF THE MSCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2017 AT THE STOCKPORT LABOUR CLUB**

## 1. Members and supporters present

Roger Bravey (RB), Fay Bravey (FB), Robert Twigg (RT), Liz Watson (LW), Peter Burns (PB), Margaret Burns (MB), Stephen Broadhead (SB); Graham Burns (GB), Patrick Moss (PM), Ian Moss (IM). Apologies - Patrick O'Herlihy, David Sumner, Gwen Scott, Peter Scott, John Bradshaw, Joy Bradshaw, Ian Edgar, Mark Shaw, Lloyd Robinson, Andrew Gwynne MP.

## 2. Minutes of the AGM 11 September 2016

Moved as a correct record by PB, seconded by GB. Matters arising – PB asked if the HSBC account had been sorted out and RT replied that it had; other items can be brought up during the meeting.

## 3. Annual Reports

Chair – RB referred to his recent newsletter to members and supporters; the clearing of the Gorton aqueduct had been useful and all trees cut back and roots left, there is evidence of water; the MSCS table at events had been arranged by GB and LW and many thanks to them; recently included Openshaw Festival; is trying to arrange litter-picks; has been contacted by SUSTRANS regarding a litter-pick they are doing this weekend in the Debdale to Ashton canal area and this is a useful contact; spoke to local people about paths needing lights; there are Openshaw residents groups and if the area is cleaner then it may create more interest in the canal scheme; has emailed the Openshaw councillors but only one has responded so far and will follow this up again. Stockport Local Plan process and has made a submission on behalf of MSCS. Plaques have been installed at various places but a couple have had paint graffiti and we'll have to think how they can be cleaned again.

Secretary – is not able to be present today but is willing to continue in the role for the next year.

## 4. Annual Accounts

RT tabled the details of the General and 100 Club accounts for the period 1.10.16 to 30.9.17 and noted that even though these are showing quite small amounts, we still need an Independent Examiner, who is not an officer, to look at them and this will be followed up in due course. Mike Chase was suggested as an option. LW asked about publishing the accounts on the MSCS website and there was discussion about this; in the end we decided that perhaps at this stage we won't do this. The accounts were agreed by those present.

RT also noted that we need to identify our 'Constitution & Aims' document. Perhaps we only need a fairly simple document. MB thought she recalled seeing such a document from Peter Scott which was very long and perhaps is more than we need; this may date to when we were a registered charity and company. It was agreed this will need to be looked at, and the Hollinwood Canal Society was suggested as a source of information on this.

RT also noted that he had received an email from the Inland Waterways Association regarding the renewal of our insurance policy with them, and as part of this we need to complete a new questionnaire. He noted some of the issues in this but will discuss this in more detail with the committee. The IWA had also sent a document about new requirements known as GDPR regulations, which essentially is about revised rules for the data protection of member's information and the need to give people an opt-in or opt-out option. We'll need to agree a protocol for this and RT will contact the committee about this.

## 5. Election of officers

Chair – Roger Bravey, Secretary – Patrick O'Herlihy; Treasurer – Robert Twigg; were all nominated and agreed.

## 6. Election of Committee

Agreed to be the officers and members as now; with others to be kept informed of issues and be the source of specialist advice, such as Peter Scott, David Sumner and Patrick Moss. SB also said he could be a potential member of the committee if needed.

## 7. Review of MSCS membership structure

RB introduced this item. We need to sort out who is a Member and who is a 100 Club donator, and if there a link between the two. There may also be 'Friends' who would be willing to help on events, litter-picking,

provide influence, etc. RT noted the confusing situation from his view as Treasurer with some people paying a specific membership fee and others just contributing to the 100 Club. There are anomalies and perhaps we need to send an email/letter to everyone we have contact with, and try to formalise all of this. Our database has Members, 100 Club contributors, supporters getting the newsletter, etc, and even as a small organisation we need to get all of this clear. PB also noted the issue of Local Authority lottery licencing for the 100 Club and RT will follow this up as we think this is currently registered with the Council where the Scott's live.

## 8. The Year Ahead

RB noted the submission he had made to the Stockport Council Local Plan. This can be put on the MSCS website if everyone agrees, and this was accepted. The submission includes the line of the canal and hopefully would enable it to be protected if agreed. There are sections where the canal has been built over in Stockport (unlike in Manchester); such as ASDA, Halfords, possibly allotments, gardens, and new housing developments such as Sparrow Close. There are sections that could be held as nature reserves pending future development. A planning application for Elisabeth Mill was highlighted which involves a car park over the canal line and this will need to be thought about. It looks like the existing UDP in Stockport may not have the existing canal line shown, and if so this would mean it isn't applicable for any planning applications. RT asked how we find out if this is the case. PB said he has the 2006 UDP and will have a look at this. RB noted that even if the UDP doesn't have the canal line we may be able to argue that this will be in the new Local Plan and therefore should be taken into account in planning applications.

We would need the new Local plan to have an aspiration for a restored canal at a foreseeable point in the future when areas are redeveloped. At the moment a developer could argue that the canal corridor cannot be 'defensible'. It was noted that Manchester Council must be having a similar review of planning for the future and if they take the canal line seriously then perhaps Stockport will do so as well. The meeting thanked RB for his efforts in preparing the submission. SB also referred to the work on a Greater Manchester Archaeological Study and this may be relevant to us too.

RB noted that he is taking up a training opportunity on Surveying as we need to know how much excavating would be needed and where the spoil could go. In some other canals this has been straightforward but our canal may be more complicated; and there are also bridge works needed.

RB also noted In due course we'll need to be thinking about how to actually progress a potential scheme and the potential partners, such as Councils, United Utilities, etc.

SB referred to a contact he has about looking at Levels; Grenville Ward, who works for Mcr Council.

RB referred to the need for more volunteers to do different tasks in the future, including some specialist ones. It was suggested that social media is a good way of getting and receiving information. RT noted the recent well-attended Manchester Road Park event, much of which was publicised in this way, and this was a great way of raising awareness about the canal idea.

## 9. 100 Club Draw

RT had the raffle tickets for each contributor (one for each £1 per month entry to the bank account). As before, there are 3 prizes at £50 each. The following numbers were drawn:

No.4 – Margaret Burns; No.9 – Graham Burns; No. 11 - Mike Chase. MB and GB said to leave their winnings in the Society and this was accepted with thanks. RT will contact Mike Chase.

## 10. 2018 Membership

RT received the following: SB, MB, PB, RB, FB, GB, LW, RT; a total of £16 membership and £41 donations.

SB noted that there are different ways of people contributing to the Society.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm with thanks from RB to everyone attending...