



# **41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Cotswold Canals Trust**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Bowmoor Sailing Club, Lechlade**

**1. Welcome & Apologies for absence**

The meeting opened at 10.35am and 51 members attended.

The Chair Jim White welcomed everyone. The following apologies for absence have been received: Rob Burgon, Jill & Clive Field, Peter Payne, David Beamont, Lois Francis, Robin Payne, Christine & David Jowett, Ron & Barbara Kerby, Bill Evill, Alan Watts and Alan Jones.

**2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the minutes. There were none.

Then the minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting were accepted by those attending the meeting as being an accurate and correct record.

**Proposed: Mike Hynd  
Seconded: Liz Payne  
All in favour**

These were signed by the Chair accordingly.

**3. To receive the Report of the Council of Management of the Cotswold Canals Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

Jack Telling discussed the Annual Report as printed in the green booklet, emphasising that it is up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The exceptions being that in May 2016 a) the Trust raised its reserves to £80k to cover unexpected expenditure, and b) the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Phase 1B was unsuccessful.

The Annual Report was received and accepted.

**Proposed: Mike Handford  
Seconded: Theo Stenning  
All in favour**

**4. To receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

Trudy Ayre (TA) introduced herself and referred everyone to her Power Point presentation, and the accounts in the green booklet. She reminded everyone that these refer to activities up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The income came in steadily during the year, with special thanks to the logging team, the Book Shop Team and the increase in Gift Aid due to the Restoration Appeal.

Also thanks to the Trading Company where income is received via the Visitor Centres and Boat Trip activities run by Clive & Jill Field, Rob Burgon and Liz Payne. The effort and time given by all volunteers is fantastic and although the bottom line is less this year we are confident that the Trading Company remains the public view of the Trust.

Also thanks to the many volunteers who have been busy finishing off Phase 1A at Ham Mill and other locations including the landing stages and piling teams.

The accounts have, once again, been drawn up by Peter Martin and audited by Little & Company of Gloucester. She was pleased to report that we have a 'clean set' of accounts.

She also thanked all the members for their generous support to the Phase 1B Restoration Appeal which currently stands at £390K. The strength of the Trust relies on numerous volunteers and TA formally thanked everyone including the employees for their huge effort.

### **Questions:**

#### **Nick Bird-What happens if the Trading Company makes a loss?**

The Trading Company was structured to operate events to protect the Trust from any risk. We have looked at changing it, for example £10,000 is allocated for admin wages due to the amount of time it takes to administer and the boat trip bookings. We could look at making this a voluntary role again as it used to be.

**Anna Watts asked if the Trading Company contributes to the rent at Wallbridge Visitor Centre?** Yes it pays a £2,500 p.a. contribution.

#### **A member asked: What is happening with Inglesham Lock, as £3000 was given to the IWA via the Tom Rolt Appeal?**

Work at Inglesham is being paid for by the IWA, they will do the structural repair of the lock but it is not enough to finish it off (lock gates, etc). CCT would need other funding to complete the lock.

**A member asked: What are the costs for Interpretation?** John Allan (Trust Council Director) replied as he has been involved in this project. These are costs for the Boards along the line of the canal which contain information about the history of various locations. This year we have focused on putting these at the Eastern End (not all of the boards are installed yet). There being no further questions Jack Telling thanked Trudy Ayre for all her hard work as Treasurer as she is standing down this year, and the meeting was asked to accept the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016:

**Proposed: Steve Pickover**

**Seconded: Mike Hynd**

**All in favour**

### **5. To appoint Auditors for the year 2016/17 and to authorise Council to agree the remuneration**

Trudy Ayre confirmed that CCT are happy to continue with the services provided by Little & Co. and that they have kept their costs to a low level and offer excellent value.

**Proposed: John Allan**

**Seconded: Pat Swift**

**All in favour**

### **6. To elect Members of the Council of Management of The Cotswold Canals Trust**

i) Members retiring by rotation in accordance with Article 42 of the Articles of Association:

John Allan, Robin Payne & Jack Telling. Their pen portraits have been posted on the website and on the table by the entrance.

**John Allan, Robin Payne & Jack Telling are all willing to stand again**

**Proposed: Ken Bailey**

**Seconded: Michael Handford**

**All in favour**

ii) Co-opted Candidate seeking election in accordance with Article 38 of the Articles of Association. Her pen portrait has been posted on the website and on the table by the entrance:

**Lois Francis**

**Proposed: Val Kirby Seconded: Michael Handford All in favour**

iii) Nominated Candidates seeking election to Trust Council in accordance with Article 45 of the Articles of Association:

**None**

## 7. Chair's Address

Jim White thanked everyone including our loyal members, active volunteers in a terrific range of areas, our partners, Stroud District Council, Town & Parish councils, CPOSN, SVCC, IWA, C&RT. The Trading Company and all their volunteers, giving talks, and other activities all as explained in the Annual Report.

Special thanks to the two Vice-Chairman John Newton and Val Kirby who has of course led the 1B Team. Also thanks to Ken Bailey (27 years on Trust Council) and Trudy Ayre (4.5 years) who are both standing down this year. Also welcome to Lois Francis our newest member of Trust Council.

Membership is 7595 slightly lower than before but the Visitor Centre at Wallbridge is still very significant in attracting new members.

On the restoration front, we have led some major volunteer run projects, including Ham Mill which is an amazing restoration success, along with all the dredging which has been helped along by some new large equipment purchased by SVCC.

Also Bowbridge Lock run by Stroud District Council, CCT volunteers and WRG. As well as Ryeford Causeway Piling headed up by Alan Jones and helped by the Help for Heroes project run by Canal & River Trust.

There has also been wet dredging above Ham Mill which is very nearly complete. Weymoor Bridge work has currently halted as it has its challenges and we await solutions from our structural engineers.

In February we held a volunteers conference where 85 people got together to discuss volunteering going forward and Trust Council has also held an Away Day to improve internal structures and to get greater efficiency and enjoyment hopefully taking the Trust forward into a successful future.

## 8. Any Other Business & Close

- **A Member asked: Do we have any more information regarding the accident on the Wilts and Berks?** The details are still with the HSE who will report on the incident. CCT are fully aware that we are working in a difficult and dangerous environment. Pat Swift discussed a training conference that Trust Councillors are about to attend which will keep us updated on current management and legislation within Canal Trusts. This information will then be passed down through the Team Leaders.
- **A Member wanted to express his thanks to the person who regularly updates the excellent new website.**

Jim White then thanked everyone for coming and handed over to Ken Burgin for the Chief Executive's up-date.

Ken Burgin then handed over to Val Kirby for the Phase 1B Update.

Jim White then put in a formal vote of thanks to Val Kirby without who there would not be a bid and also formally thanked Ken Burgin.

The meeting closed at 1pm.