

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SHREWSBURY & NEWPORT CANALS TRUST
Held at Wappenshall Wharf, Wappenshall, Telford, TF6 6DE
on Saturday 2nd June 2018 at 12:15p.m.**

Members in attendance: Victor Abbott; Geraldine Abbott; John Acres; David Adams; Steve Bean; Alex Bielecki; Stefan Bielecki; Sue Blake; Alan Boney; Sue Boney; E Bosyt; P Brewer; Peter Brown; Ken Buttress; Peter Cann; Neil Clarke; Cyril Cowdrill; David Crow; John Duffield; Elaine Evans; Sherrel Fikeis; Heather Freeman; John Freeman; James Gollins; Paula Haddon; Sue Hamer; Jean Hammond; Mike Hammond; Alan Harding; Marion Harrington; Jo Havell; Derek Hillaby; Diane Hirst; Tony Hirst; Sue Jackson; Anne Jones; Bernie Jones; Cindy Jones; Mike Jones; Chris Laddman; Roger Lines; Sallie Lines; Mike Mee; Shirley Mee; Stephen Mitchell; John Myers; Brian Nelson; Dee Nelson; Ruth Otter; Terry Otter; Sally Parkin; Trevor Parkin; Jennie Perks; Tony Perks; David Peters; Bobbie Phillips; Maggie Phillips; Alistair Price; Sue Price; Peter Rawlings; Melville Rogers; Sandra Scholey; Peter Scott; Sue Sharp; C M Sheard; John Stevens; Susan Tappin; Barbara Tyler; Michael Ward; Chas Warren; Keith Watts; John Webster; Vaughan Welch; Ted Williams.

Guests in attendance: Cllr Eric Carter; Phoebe Farrell; Cllr Raj Mehta (Mayor, T&WC); Cllr Tim Nelson.

The Chairman, Bernie Jones (BJ), welcomed all members and guests.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Malcolm Braine; Rose Braine; Gwyneth Buss; Ray Buss; Tony Clayton; Ron Gardner; John Heather; Steve Jones; Margaret Mitchell; Cynthia Richards; Derek Taylor; Jim Taylor; Christine Vernon; Gregory Vernon; Alan Wilding; Sue Wilding.

2. Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on 3rd June 2017.

These had been made available on the Trust website and copies were available at the meeting. There was no request that they be read out. There were no questions or comments arising. Tony Hirst proposed that they were accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Mike Mee and agreed nem con.

3. Report of the Trustees & Financial Statement for year ended 30th September 2017.

These had been made available on the Trust website and copies were available at the meeting. There were no comments or questions arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman started his report on the past twelve months with photographs of some highlight events:

- June 2017 - the Trust stand at Withington Fete being manned by volunteers and a visit by 22 members to BIFoR at Norbury to see the research going on there into the impact of climate and environmental change on woodlands.
- July 2017 - the war on Himalayan Balsam at Newport by a tremendous input by volunteers.
- August 2017 – the visit of the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire to Wappenshall to present the QAVS to our volunteers, some of whom were to be seen within weeks continuing towpath re-surfacing in Newport.
- September 2017 - volunteers clearing the site at Wappenshall ready for Plan B start
- October 2017 - volunteers finish re-surfacing towpath in Newport; with WRG, carry out work at Berwick N Portal; and clear the undergrowth from Sundorne towpath
- November 2017 – Shropshire magazine recognise the voluntary effort from SNCT; as did CRT with an award for putting the most hours into restoration – 16,500 – in our region.; whilst voluntary efforts were supported by a donation from Robert Nicholas Financial Advisors.
- January 2018 - volunteers erect a new information panel at the Black Shed in Newport
- February 2018 - volunteers paint the inside of the Black Shed white! At Berwick volunteers put a boat on the canal, a massive PR success

- March 2018 – volunteers plant new hedge at Meretown; and install compound fence and plant yew trees round it at Berwick Tunnel north portal..
- April 2018– volunteers dismantling things for scrap metal that raised over £2,200 in past 12 months
- May 2018– Norbury Canal Festival – can't run the event without volunteers!

His theme was obviously the Trust's wonderful volunteers and thanks were given to them all.

Other areas of progress were also reported on:

- 'Plan B' for the restoration of the small Wappenshall warehouse, the money already raised and pledged during the HLF bid process, grants and a significant legacy left to the Trust.
- Input to the Shrewsbury Big Plan, TWC Local Plan and Staffs BC Plan.
- Support from the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the Institute of Civil Engineers.
- Potential leasing of the Newport Town Council section of the canal.
- The support and enthusiasm of the Waterway Recovery Group members at Forton, Newport & Shrewsbury.
- An exciting new TV series – Benjamin Cuttle – which will be partially filmed on the S&N and will benefit Trust funds.

Finally, he looked to the future, and stressed the need for even more volunteers. There were opportunities for those perhaps not so keen on physical work in such areas as fundraising, taking minutes, manning the trust stand, liaising with councils, editing the website, editing S&N News or keeping our social media presence.

5. Election of Trustees

Steve Bean (SB) explained that the Trust has 12 elected Trustees, of whom a third retire by rotation at each AGM. On this occasion they were John Freeman, Alan Harding, John Heather and John Myers, but John Freeman had decided not to seek re-election. On behalf of the Trustees and all members, SB thanked John for all he had done as a Trustee over the past four years.

SB reported that Trustees had agreed to recommend that John Stevens be elected as a Trustee. Maggie Phillips proposed that the four be elected en bloc and this was seconded by Alan Boney. On a show of hands the four, Alan Harding, John Heather, John Myers and John Stevens, were elected unanimously.

6. Special Resolution.

It is resolved by way of special resolution THAT the proposed new Articles of Association identified as such by certificate thereon endorsed by the Company Secretary dated 15th March 2018 be approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust in substitution for and to the entire exclusion of all existing Articles of Association.

SB explained that the proposed new Articles of Association had been made available on the Trust website and that copies were available at the meeting. He further explained that the current Articles of Association were adopted in 2000 (with minor amendments since) but that as there had been many significant changes in both company law and charity law since then (now consolidated in the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 respectively). Also, with changes in methods of communication, increased membership, and provisions that have become difficult to fully comply with the current Articles had been considered no longer truly fit for purpose and needed substantial updating and future-proofing. This it was considered was most easily done by replacement with a modern form of Articles. Any change to a company's Articles of Association had to be approved by the membership by a 'special resolution' which requires a vote in favour by at least a 75% majority of the members voting.

On a show of hands all members voting were in favour of the special resolution, with none against.

7. Any Other Business.

There were no matters raised proper to the AGM and the meeting was closed.