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Date: 23rd November 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, 30th November, 2023 at 5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the [Council's website](#).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

- 3 Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group Held on 22nd June 2023. 1 - 4
- 4 Update On Matters Relating to The Canal. 5 - 8
- 5 Update from Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust- (Verbal Update).

Circulation:

Councillors N. George, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, B. Owen, D.W.R. Preece, J. Simmonds, A. Whitcombe (Chair), K. Woodland and C. Wright

Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust – Rev. J. Collier and L. Gauntlett

Relevant Cabinet Member: C. Morgan

And Appropriate Officers

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MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE
AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 22ND JUNE 2023 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe – Chair

Ms L. Gauntlett (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust) - Vice Chair

Councillors:

N. George, D.W.R. Preece and B. Owen

Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces: Councillor C. Morgan

Representing Monmouthshire, Brecon, and Abergavenny Canals Trust –Reverend J. Collier
(Chair of MBACT)

Officers: C. Adams (Highways Engineer Group Manager) S. Stook (Principal Engineer), G. Lewis (Principal Regeneration Projects Officer) and J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

All present were reminded that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, A. Leonard (due to technical issues), C. Wright P. Leonard, J. Simmonds and K. Woodland together with J. Pitman (Senior Assistant Engineer), B. Smith (Regeneration Projects Officer), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), Paul Hudson (Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader) and Bethan Smith (Regeneration Projects Officer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C. Morgan declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 6 and 7 as a member of the Inland Waterways Association, as a private boat owner.

3. MINUTES – 2ND MARCH 2023

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group held on 2nd March 2023 be approved as a correct record. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group held on 2nd March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

Sarah Stook (Principal Engineer) presented and summarised the report, which detailed the current and planned maintenance and any capital works planned for the forthcoming year. The report set out details of current funding availability and outlined any current operational issues regarding the usage and the condition of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.

The Members thanked the Officer for the comprehensive report and the Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

Following a request from a Member regarding an update on the progress of the Canal Corridor Study, Gillian Lewis (Principal Regeneration Projects Officer) advised Members that funding had been earmarked from the Shared Prosperity Funding for a feasibility study of the canal future use, the funding is in financial year 2024/25 and the Canal Corridor Study will be reviewed as part of this.

Following a query from the Vice Chair with regard to the Slip Way Reinstatement on Halls Road Terrace, Members were advised that a contractor has been secured to start the building works on or around the 17th July 2023. The works are likely to take around four weeks. Sarah Stook advised Members that once the contractor has confirmed the date for commencement, an email will be sent to all stake holders to confirm.

A Member queried whether the Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces, Councillor Chris Morgan should be included as a consultee for any future Canal Update Reports. The Chair noted this query and would seek advice on the matter.

Following discussion, the Canal Group noted the content of the report and thanked Officers for their update.

5. UPDATE FROM MBACT

The Vice -Chair Lindsey Gauntlet provided the Members with a verbal update on recent MBACT developments.

The Members were pleased to note that Newport City Council have secured £1.9 million of funding for the next two financial years in order to carry out restoration works on the Crumlin Arm section of the Canal. Ms Gauntlet also advised that this work would include repairing the leaks at the Fourteen Locks section of the canal. Members were further advised that

MBACT intend on working very closely with Newport CC on the project.

The Chair thanked Lindsey Gauntlet for the update.

In response to a query raised by a Member, it was confirmed that some of the funding that NCC have received will be allocated to fixing the leaks along the canal channel.

In response to a query raised by a Member, the Members were pleased to note that Rev Collier is currently in the process of working to set up a 'Regeneration Working Group' which will include local authorities and outside bodies.

A number of Members showed great interest in an invitation from Rev Collier to join MABCT on a joint visit to Montgomeryshire and the Cotswold canals to see how they obtained funding.

The Canal Group thanked the Vice Chair and Reverend Collier and noted the details of the update.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 5.37p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November, 2023, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

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MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL – CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 30TH NOVEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Canal Working Group Members on all matters relating to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report details the current and planned maintenance and any capital works planned for the remainder of this year. Details are provided on current funding availability and a general statement is provided outlining any current operational issues regarding the usage and the condition of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.
- 2.2 Members of the working group are asked to note that ensuring the integrity of the canal channel and connecting culverts thus maintaining water flows and levels is the priority of the Council.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the working group note the contents of the report and the updates provided.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To provide members with an update of details of the current and planned maintenance and any capital works planned for the remainder of this year.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 MAINTENANCE UPDATE

5.1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel maintenance for 2023 was undertaken in October. It should be noted that this year's weed maintenance operations was managed more appropriately with no complaints received in this respect. Thanks were passed onto

Parks Department for their efforts and attention to this operation.

5.1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of the season was undertaken in March and then on a 3 to 4 weekly cycle up until the final cut that was undertaken in October 2023.

5.2. 2023/2024 WORKS PROGRAMME

5.2.1 Towpath

There are no planned towpath works for 2023/2024.

5.2.2 Access Enhancement

There are no planned access maintenance works for 2023/24.

5.2.3 Water Control

The canal feed was switched off in October 2023 in readiness for the winter season. Officers continue to monitor water levels but in the interest of public safety and flood prevention, a freeboard of 500mm should be maintained throughout these months.

Infrastructure officers have initiated the process of obtaining an abstraction license with Natural Resources Wales. The council has been informed that due to the pressures of other abstraction licenses from the Ebbw River including the Newport Docks at Bassaleg Weir a hands-off flow equivalent to Q75 will be applied. This means that the council are only able to abstract water where levels are higher than 75% of normal or on an average rainfall year, equivalent to 274 days where water would be available.

Infrastructure officers are now tasked with calculating the current Q rates and if any adaptations to the Nant Carn Feed are required to meet the Q75 requirements.

Drainage upgrade/improvement works at Henry Roberts Bridge has been commissioned with a scheduled commencement date of January 8th 2024 with a 3week contract period. Works will be undertaken safely under a temporary road closure. Members will be notified of the works nearer the time.

With respect to Manor Road emergency feed, officers in Infrastructure have attempted contact several times with DCWW pollution prevention control officer but have not yet been able to secure a meeting.

5.2.4 Dredging

Dredging works at Fernlea remains a desire and will be scheduled for maintenance later in 2023/24 subject to available funding.

5.2.5 Tree Maintenance

Planned tree maintenance is progressing and being managed by the authority's Arboriculturalists. Reactive works to deal with tree falls is also ongoing.

5.2.6 External Funding

No external funding for use on the canal has been secured for 2023/24 however, officers within CCBC Planning and Regeneration Division continually seek opportunities where appropriate.

5.2.7 Channel Leak Repair

Phase 5 re-lining works (from Greenmeadow Bridge approximately 500m north) remains a priority for the council (subject to securing external funding).

A works cost estimate within the order of £250k has been prepared to attend to the leaking aqueduct but subject to available funding.

5.2.8 Emergency Works

No emergency works to report.

5.3. FUNDING

5.3.1 Capital

The capital budget allocation for 2023/24 was £181.7k, of which to date, circa £107k remains. The recent installation of Halls Road Terrace Slip Way was commissioned from the capital budget.

5.3.2 Revenue

The budget allocation for 2023/24 is £105k with an allocation of £100k from agreed reserves, totalling £205k for the current year, of which to date, circa £145k remains. A replacement bench is on order together with a new length of fencing at Henry Roberts Bridge.

5.4. BOATS

Licensing Department recently shared details of the authority's boat licensing regime with members of the trust of which, they are currently reviewing.

Prior to the boats relaunch, it has been agreed that an officer from Engineering and Parks Departments undertake a joint walkover from the Darran to Pontywaun. This is to ensure there are no broken branches obstructing the water in the canal channel.

5.5 Conclusion

A full programme of works for the coming year is being developed subject to considerations relating to the aqueduct and subject to available funding from the Capital and Revenue budgets together with potential external funding to achieve objectives.

It should be noted however, that reactive/emergency works will be undertaken and take precedence over planned works with respect to time and budget.

Note: CCBC's 5-year Canal Management Plan will soon be reviewed/updated to record any works undertaken and any priority changes. Copies will be forwarded for consultation as required.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made regarding the information contained in this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Report is for information only.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The budget details are included in section 5.3 above and include a capital budget of £181.7k and revenue budget of £205k, of which £107k and £145k remains respectively.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Consultation as below for information only.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 No requirements in this respect, information only.

Author: Sarah Stook, Principal Engineer, stooksj@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina Harrhy – Chief Executive
Dave Street – Deputy Chief Executive
Mark S Williams – Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Marcus Lloyd – Head of Infrastructure and Waste Management
Rob Tranter – Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Stephen Harris – Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Rob Hartshorn – Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services
Rhian Kyte – Head of Regeneration and Planning