



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe – Chair

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

Councillors:

P. Leonard, A. Leonard, B. Owen, J. Simmonds, K. Woodland and C. Wright

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

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

Officers: B. Smith (Regeneration Projects Officer) S. Stook (Principal Engineer), 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 N. George, D.W.R Preece together with G. Lewis (Principal Regeneration Projects Officer)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations received.

3. MINUTES – 22ND JUNE 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 22nd June 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 remainder of this year. Details were provided on current funding availability and a general statement was provided outlining any current operational issues regarding the usage and the condition of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.

Members of the working group noted that the budget details are included within the report include a capital budget of £181.7k and revenue budget of £205k, of which £107k and £145k remains respectively.

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

In response to queries raised by a Member the Officer advised the working group that with regard to the revenue budget, there was an agreed reserve of £100k applied for the year, which would be lost if it is not used by the end of financial year. However, there is an ongoing list of works in relation to maintenance and keeping the canal in the best condition. Therefore, the Officer assured Members that every effort would be made to keep as much of the funding as possible to ensure the integrity of the canal. The Officer did confirm however, that there was a reserve allocation in the previous year that was used to make repairs to the Darren Culvert.

The Working Group noted that Caerphilly is the only Authority that receives an allocation for the Canal from the Capital Reserves Fund.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be noted.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained within the Officers report the working group noted the contents of the report and the updates provided.

5. UPDATE FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE, BRECON AND ABERGAVENNY CANAL TRUST – VERBAL

The Vice Chair Lindsey Gauntlet and Reverend Collier provided the Members with a brief verbal update on recent Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust developments.

Rev Collier advised the Working Group that the Water Way Recovery Group were due to carry out works at the section of canal at Pentre Lane, which is South of Cwmbran. However, the

work has been delayed due to an issue with Himalayan Balsam, which can only be removed in May.

The Rev Collier suggested setting up a Subgroup with Council employees and regeneration partners to share good practises and experiences to arrange a festival to promote the Crumlin Arm section of the canal.

The Working Group noted that there are aspirations to re start a canal group or waterway group cross party at the Senedd as soon as possible.

The Working Group were pleased to note that, there is an agreement to be signed with Torfaen Council, which will allow MBACT to work on the canal without restrictions.

The Vice Chair updated the Working Group on the progress at the Newport Section of the canal. The Working Group noted that Newport CC were in the process of recruiting a person to overlook the volunteering groups.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair and Reverend Collier for the update.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 5.30p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February, 2024, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR