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Date: 31st January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Thursday, 8th February, 2018** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

Yours faithfully,

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

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages	
1	To receive apologies for absence.	
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.

A greener place Man gwyrddach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



To receive and note the following minutes: -

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 3 | Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group held on 19th October 2017. | 1 - 4 |
| 4 | To receive an update on Matters Relating to the Canal. | 5 - 6 |

Circulation:

M. Davies, N. George, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, Ms P. Leonard, B. Owen, Mrs A. Leonard, D.W.R. Preece, J. Simmonds, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe (Chair) and R. Whiting

Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust – Mr R.J. Domett and Mr B. Illman

Cabinet Member: S. Morgan (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion)

And Appropriate Officers



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON
THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe - Chair

Mr R. Dommett (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust) - Vice Chair

Councillors:

M. Davies, N. George, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, Mrs A. Leonard, B. Owen, J. Simmonds, C. Thomas, R. Whiting

Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability and Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion - Councillor S. Morgan

Together with:

K. Kinsey (Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Hussey, Ms P. Leonard and D.W.R. Preece.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES - 22ND JUNE 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2017 were approved as a correct record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

4. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Kevin Kinsey (Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager) presented a verbal update on matters relating to the Canal and responded to queries from the Group in turn.

Canal Channel - weed cutting/channel maintenance has been programmed for the end of October 2017. It was explained that the exercise will be closely monitored by Officers from Ecology and the Engineering Projects Group in view of the accidental fish kill incident which occurred in October 2015.

Grass Maintenance - the final cut of the season will be undertaken at the end of October, which will include the amended cutting patterns along the Manor Road section.

5. 2017/2018 WORKS PROGRAMME

Towpath - some areas of the towpath have recently been treated for weed growth.

Access Enhancement - General enhancement of green areas and maintenance of canal areas has been carried out.

Water Control - It is proposed to lower water levels to normal winter level to allow sufficient storage/free board within the Canal channel to deal with possible storm events and thus prevent flooding. Mr Richard Dommett (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust) asked that he is made aware of this so that the reduced levels can be used to investigate current Canal issues at Fourteen Locks in Rogerstone.

Tree Maintenance - A tree survey over the full length of the Canal has been completed and works will be undertaken over the next months to cut back tree growth. This will include the tree at Henry Roberts Bridge. It was confirmed that reactive maintenance has recently been undertaken to deal with low lying branches obstructing passage along the Canal channel. In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that priority will be given to damaged trees in the first instance, and those trees obstructing the towpaths and channels.

Channel Leak Repair - Mr Kinsey confirmed that the second phase of relining works to the Cwmcarn and Pontywaun aquaduct have been successfully completed. Consideration is being given toward the planning of a third phase of works, which will continue the relining works to the Pontywaun Bridge and will utilise a portion of the capital budget allocation for 2018/19. An application for external match funding to maximise the potential from this phase of the works is due to be submitted shortly.

Emergency Works – Remedial bridge maintenance works have recently been carried out to repair damage at Moriah Hill Bridge and Penrhiw Bridge in Risca.

Mr Kinsey was thanked for his update.

6. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2018

The meeting dates proposed within the agenda were agreed by Members.

Discussion took place regarding the start time for the Canal Group meetings. At the previous meeting, it had been noted that there has been low attendance for the 10.00 a.m. meetings, as several Members are unable to attend a morning session due to other commitments. The Canal Group therefore agreed to implement a 5.00 p.m. start time on a trial basis.

Members referred to the noticeable improvement in attendance following the move to an

evening session. Following discussion with the Chair and Cabinet Member, it was unanimously agreed that future meetings of the Canal Group be arranged for a 5.00 p.m. start time.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Dommatt advised Members of an all-day coach tour across the length of the Canal taking place on Wednesday 1st November 2017, which was being organised by Torfaen Council and the Canal and River Trust. All Canal Group Members were encouraged to attend, and it was noted that representatives from other local authorities and organisations involved with the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal would also be in attendance.

It was confirmed that details of the itinerary would be circulated to Members following the meeting in order to allow the necessary arrangements to be made.

Mr Dommatt also provided an update in respect of funding developments. He confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Fund application by MBACT to enable progression of the Five Locks project between Brecon and Cwmbran had been unsuccessful, but that there is potential to reapply at a later date. A £160k bid for Rural Development Programme funding for the restoration of the Cabin Lock at Ty Coch has been submitted.

The Canal and River Trust has submitted a £500k bid for a feasibility study in respect of a Water Management Strategy across the whole of the Canal on behalf of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership. Although the application was unsuccessful, the Canal and River Trust (supported by MBACT) are meeting with Welsh Government to review the application.

Mr Dommatt was thanked for his update and the meeting closed at 5.29 p.m.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 8TH FEBRUARY 2018

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

Efforts were made to undertake weed cutting/channel maintenance in December 2017 but due to difficulties in securing availability with the specialist contractor this was not possible. It has now been decided to put back planned weed cutting until the autumn.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of the season will be undertaken in March 2018. The cutting will progress to the agreed regime and include the amended cutting patterns along the Manor Road section.

2. 2017/2018 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

General maintenance will be carried out.

2.2 Access Enhancement

General maintenance to paved surfaced areas in the form of weed clearance and power washing will be undertaken shortly, together with the painting of all street furniture and fencing. Existing hoop barriers where damaged or missing will be replaced, as will all of the locks on the various gate access points.

2.3 Water Control

No works are planned for the remainder of this financial year.

2.4 Dredging

No works are planned for the remainder of this year.

2.5 Tree Maintenance

Tree maintenance commenced on Monday 29th January 2018 and will deal with low lying branches that currently obstruct passage along the canal channel, and any trees requiring trimming back as identified in the February 2017 survey.

2.6 External Funding

Officers within CCBC's Regeneration and Planning Division are currently working with neighbouring authorities to compile bids in an attempt to secure funding for further improvements at key areas along the Canal. It is understood that this is progressing well and in this respect the use of the Canal capital funding as match funding is being considered

2.7 Channel Leak Repair

The second phase of works has been completed. Phase 3 works are being designed at present and will be tendered in May of this year. The length of Canal to be addressed in this phase will extend from the downstream terminus of Phase 1 down to the Pontywaun overbridge.

2.8 Emergency Works

There have been no defects requiring emergency action identified during this period.

3. FUNDING

3.1 Capital

A capital budget allocation for 2018/19 is anticipated to be confirmed as £212k plus the £149k carry over from 2017/18, giving a total budget of £361k. This funding will be used to complete the Phase 3 channel lining works at Pontywaun.

3.2 Revenue

The budget for 2017/18 was £105k and current spend commitments should see this spent in full. The anticipated budget for 2018/19 currently stands at £105k.

4. BOATS

4.1 No update in this respect.

Author: K.J. Kinsey, Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager