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Date: 11th October 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, 18th October, 2018** at **5.30 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, and a simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meetings and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

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

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

- | | 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 21st June 2018. | 1 - 4 |
| 4 | To receive an update on Matters Relating to the Canal. | 5 - 6 |
| 5 | Update from Mr Richard Dommett - MBACT (verbal update). | |

Circulation:

M. Davies, 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. Dommett and Mr B. Illman

Cabinet Member: N. George (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services)

And Appropriate Officers

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Those individuals that attend committee meetings to speak/give evidence will be named in the minutes of that meeting, sometimes this will include their place of employment or business and opinions expressed. Minutes of Meetings including details of speakers will be publicly available to all via the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON
THURSDAY 21ST JUNE 2018 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

M. Davies, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, D.W.R. Preece, J. Simmonds, C. Thomas,
R. Whiting

Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services - Councillor N. George

Together with:

Mr R. Dommatt (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust), K. Kinsey (Acting
Engineering Projects Group Manager), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

In his absence, Councillor Andrew Whitcombe was unanimously appointed Chair of the
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group for the ensuing year.

Mr Richard Dommatt (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust) was
unanimously appointed Vice-Chair of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm
Working Group for the ensuing year.

In the absence of Councillor Whitcombe, Mr Dommatt presided as Chair for this meeting.

It was also noted that the Canal Group has now moved to the portfolio of the Cabinet Member
for Neighbourhood Services (Councillor Nigel George).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, B.
Owen and A. Whitcombe (Chair), together with Mr B. Illman (Monmouthshire, Brecon and
Abergavenny Canals Trust).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. **MINUTES - 8TH FEBRUARY 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2018 were approved as a correct record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. **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 clearance will be undertaken by the specialist contractor during September/October 2018 and 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 - cutting is progressing to the agreed regime and includes the amended cutting patterns along the Manor Road section. This appears to be working well and a balance between ecological and access considerations seems to have been achieved. A Member queried if it would be feasible to extend the amended cut to other areas of the Canal and Mr Kinsey confirmed that this could be examined if the Group wished to explore this option.

6. **2018/2019 WORKS PROGRAMME**

Towpath – General maintenance will be undertaken. Repair work was carried out in March and April 2018 to some paved areas of the towpath.

Access Enhancement - general maintenance to paved surfaced areas in the form of weed clearance and power washing is being carried out. A Member sought an update in respect of remedial works to the car park at Pontywaun Spiritual Church on Halls Road (adjacent to the Canal) and Mr Kinsey confirmed that he would make some enquiries in this regard.

Water Control - No works are planned for this year. It was confirmed that all water control valves have been turned on and that water levels are due to be inspected shortly. Discussion took place regarding a recent drop in levels and it was confirmed that this was due to a tampered feed which has now been rectified.

Dredging – Silt bar removal has been planned along the length of the Canal which will allow for boat navigation to be resumed.

Tree Maintenance - Tree maintenance has been undertaken to deal with low lying branches obstructing passage along the canal channel, and trim back those trees identified in the February 2017 survey. In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that this has been carried out at a cost of £35k and that all areas identified in the survey have been addressed.

External Funding – It was noted that an announcement is due in July on EU funding for the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Adventure Triangle project and it is hoped that this will bring positive news for the Canal. A Member queried whether there would be any investment at the Manor Road (Risca) section of the Canal if this funding is successful and Officers confirmed that this avenue would be explored, together with the potential restoration of a lock structure uncovered at Pontywaun.

Channel Leak Repair - Phase 3 relining works are being designed at present and will be tendered in due course. The length of Canal to be addressed in this phase will extend from the downstream terminus of Phase 1 down to the Pontywaun overbridge.

Emergency Works - There have been no defects requiring emergency action identified during this period. It was noted that generally across 2017/18 there were very few instances of reactive maintenance required to repair emergency leaks.

7. FUNDING

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.

The budget for 2018/19 was £105k and current spend commitments should see this spent in full.

8. BOATS

There was no news to report in this respect.

Mr Kinsey was thanked for his update and for responding to Members' queries during the course of his presentation.

9. UPDATE FROM MR RICHARD DOMMETT - MBACT

Members were advised that the Ty Coch Waterway Park Feasibility study has been completed and that the consultants have established its potential. The project will now move on to the next stage. Mr Dommett confirmed that he had been provided with a report on the study findings and would arrange for this to be circulated to the Canal Group following the meeting.

It was noted that the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership's Memorandum of Understanding is currently being reviewed. Comments will be fed back to the next meeting of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Joint Steering Group on 19th July 2018 which is being held at the Winding House in New Tredegar.

Members were advised that MBACT will have a presence at this year's Pontypool Party in the Park on Saturday 14th July 2018. The Canal Group were also encouraged to attend MBACT's Annual Duck Race event, which is being held at Llangynidr, Crickhowell, on August Bank Holiday Monday (27th August 2018).

Discussion took place regarding a plot of land for sale in Crosskeys that is in the vicinity of the Canal, and it was suggested that Officers make enquiries to ensure that future maintenance access to one of the Canal locks can be retained.

In closing, it was noted that the next meeting of the Canal Group will be held on Thursday 18th October 2018 and will be preceded by annual refresher training for the Group Members.

The meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 18TH OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel maintenance is planned to start week commencing 15th October 2018, this will be closely monitored by officers.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The last cut of the season was recently completed. The cutting during this visit is extended down to the water's edge and any self-seeded saplings are removed at the same time from the canal banks.

2. 2018/2019 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

All paved areas along the canal towpath where jet washed, weeds were removed and a weed killer applied, this work was undertaken in March 2018.

2.2 Access Enhancement

All existing street furniture and fencing was painted in March. Existing hoop barriers where damaged or missing were replaced, the replacement barriers now have an integral lock which is less prone to vandalism, all missing locks on the various gate access points have been replaced.

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

Extensive tree maintenance works are currently ongoing; this has been made necessary by the discovery of Ash Dieback over the full length of the canal. This is likely to have a significant impact on the wooded fringes of the canal.

2.6 External Funding

Officers within CCBC's Regeneration and Planning Division as part of the Mon & Brec Canal Adventure Triangle bid have successfully secured funding to the value of £678,571.00, all works associated with this funding are to be completed by December 2020. Officers are currently looking at priorities in this respect.

2.7 Channel Leak Repair

The third phase of works is being designed at present and will be tendered in early in the New 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.

There is currently an issue with water loss at the aqueduct and officers are reviewing options to deal with this.

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 2018/19 was £105k and current spend commitments should see this spent in full.

4. BOATS

4.1 No update in this respect.

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