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**Date: 20th February 2019**

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, 28th February, 2019** 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 18th October 2018. | 1 - 4 |
| 4 | To receive an update on Matters Relating to the Canal.                                | 5 - 8 |
| 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](http://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 18TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe - Chair

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

Councillors:

M. Davies, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, B. Owen, D.W.R. Preece,  
J. Simmonds, C. Thomas, R. Whiting

Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services - Councillor N. George

Together with:

W. Birrell (Acting Team Leader), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G. Johnston, Mr B. Illman (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust) and K. Kinsey (Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager).

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. MINUTES – 21ST JUNE 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

#### 4. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Will Birrell (Acting Team Leader) presented a verbal update on matters relating to the Canal and responded to queries from the Group in turn.

**Canal Channel** - weed clearance/channel maintenance commenced in October 2018 along the entire length of the Canal and will be closely monitored by Officers.

**Grass Maintenance** - the last cut of the season was recently completed. The cutting pattern during this visit was extended down to the water's edge and any self-seeded samplings were removed at the same time from the Canal bank.

#### 5. 2018/2019 WORKS PROGRAMME

**Towpath** - all paved areas along the canal towpath were jet washed, weeds were removed and a weed killer applied. This work was undertaken in March 2018.

**Access Enhancement** - All existing street furniture and fencing was painted in March 2018. Existing hoop barriers where damaged or missing were replaced. The replacement barriers now have an integral lock which is less prone to vandalism, and all missing locks on the various gate access points have been replaced.

**Water Control** - No works are planned for the remainder of this financial year.

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

**Tree Maintenance** - Extensive tree maintenance works are currently ongoing, which 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. A Member asked if there are any plans to plant replacement trees and Mr Birrell confirmed that he would make some enquiries in this regard.

**External Funding** - Officers within CCBC's Regeneration and Planning Division as part of the Monmouthshire and Brecon 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 and Officers are currently looking at priorities in this respect.

Mr Richard Dommatt (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Trust) outlined the history of the Adventure Triangle project and the schemes that have been proposed over the years. The basis of the project is to develop outdoor recreation, leisure and tourism activity at key Canal points, including Pontymoile, South Sebastopol and 5 Locks Canal Basins, towpath improvements at Ty Coch and improved adventure tourism routes across Mynydd Maen linking to Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Blaen Bran and Greenmeadow Community Farm. It was noted that there has been no further progression since the funding was secured but that Torfaen Council has recently advertised for a Senior Project Implementation Officer to play a key role in the delivery of the project.

**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 Pontywaun aqueduct, and Mr Birrell explained that the water at the canal feed has now been turned off to monitor the drop in levels and identify where the leak is coming from.

In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that the third phase of works will proceed in conjunction with identification of the leak. A Member asked if the recent adverse weather

had contributed to the leak, and it was explained that the leak could possibly be due to water getting into the canal structure at the aquaduct or a failing in the new infrastructure. Officers will investigate in stages in order to identify the cause. The Canal Group discussed whether there could be an opportunity to seek recourse with the aqueduct contractor if the leak has been caused by the regeneration works, and noted that the investigation work will need to be completed in the first instance.

**Emergency Works** - There have been no defects requiring emergency action identified during this period.

## 6. FUNDING

**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.

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

## 7. BOATS

There was no update to report in this respect.

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

## 8. UPDATE FROM MR RICHARD DOMMETT - MBACK

Mr Dommatt provided an update on developments in respect of the Canal, and explained that budget savings considerations for Torfaen Council have led to reductions in the events department and programme for 2019, which may have an impact on the promotion of the Canal moving forward.

The Canal Group were advised that Mr Dommatt had recently submitted two "Call for Candidate Sites" applications to Torfaen Council for inclusion in their Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033. The applications referred to the Ty Coch Employment Site and Waterway Corridor through Torfaen CBC, and outlined their significance for inclusion in planning policy. Copies of the forms were tabled at the meeting for Members' information.

Mr Dommatt also explained that the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Joint Steering Group had been due to meet earlier that day but that there had been a need to postpone the meeting. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership's Memorandum of Understanding is undergoing review and will be considered by the Steering Group in due course.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 5.49 p.m.

The next meeting of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm Working Group will be held on Thursday 28th February 2019.

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## MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 28TH FEBRUARY 2019

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

**REPORT BY:** INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

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### 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 forthcoming year. Details are given 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.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 For information only.

### 5. THE REPORT

#### 5.1 MAINTENANCE UPDATE

##### 5.1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel maintenance for 2019 is not planned as yet, this will be considered later in the year in consultation with all relevant stake holders.

##### 5.1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of the season is planned for March, the exact date will be weather dependant but it could extend into March if the cold snap of 2018 is repeated.

#### 5.2. 2019/2020 WORKS PROGRAMME

##### 5.2.1 Towpath

There are no planned towpath works for 2019.

### 5.2.2 Access Enhancement

There are no planned access maintenance works for 2019.

### 5.2.3 Water Control

It is proposed to undertake cleansing of all culverted sections of the canal during March/ April, install provision for stop boards at key locations along together with depth gauges.

Installation of a new control valve at the Manor Road emergency feed is currently under consideration and is likely to be in place before the Summer.

Works to the Nant Carn Feed are programmed for mid-summer.

### 5.2.4 Dredging

Dredging of the Green Meadows Bridge to the Drill Halls Channel is planned for the yearly 2020.

### 5.2.5 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. To date this works as been completed along the section between Halls Road Pontywaun and Navigation Road, Risca, it is anticipated that the remaining length of the canal down to Harry Roberts Bridge will be completed before the end of March.

### 5.2.6 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.

### 5.2.7 Channel Leak Repair

The third phase of works is being designed at present and will be tendered Late spring /early summer. 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, and as such it is planned to implement remedial works at the same time as the phase 3 works.

### 5.2.8 Emergency Works

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

## 5.3 FUNDING

### 5.3.1 Capital

A capital budget allocation for 2018/19 is £212k plus the £149k carry over from 2017/18, giving a total budget of £361k, anticipated funding for 2019/20 is £212k. This funding will be used to complete the Phase 3 channel lining works at Pontywaun, and match funding for the Adventure triangle funding mentions above.



### 5.3.2 Revenue

The budget for 2018/19 was £105k and current spend commitments should see this spent in full. Funding for 2019/20 forms part of the MTFP infrastructure savings for 2019/20 and as such will be reduced to £50k.

### 5.4. BOATS

5.4.1 No update in this respect.

### 5.5 Conclusion

A full programmed of works for the coming year has been identified with funding in place to achieve these objectives.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

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

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 No requirements in this respect, information only.

### 7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The reports content contributes towards or impacts the Corporate Well-being Objectives, which are:

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The canal provides a linear park suitable for users of all abilities who wish to engage in various forms of activity.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being. The canal provides a linear park suitable for users of all abilities who wish to engage in various forms of activity.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 This report contributes to the following Well-being Goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act:-

- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

It is also consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that we will seek to consider the long-term impact of the management of the Canal and its impact on residents, service users and visitors and ensure that the Council as a public body meets its regulatory duties and corporate objectives.

**9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no equalities implications.

**10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications.

**11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no personnel implications.

**12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 There is no requirement to undertake consultation given the nature of this report.

**13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 No requirements in this respect, information only.

Author: Kevin Kinsey, Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager, kinsek@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: None