



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 MACT)

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