

THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION
Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 1WA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER (AGM) 2021

Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting of The Inland Waterways Association (IWA), held at 11.30am on Saturday 25th September 2021 electronically via Zoom.

PRESENT

89 persons were recorded as present.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Paul Rodgers, National Chair, welcomed those present to the meeting, noting that whilst holding electronic meetings was still a relative novelty in 2020, it had now become commonplace across IWA and other organisations in the non-profit sector. After explaining technicalities of the electronic meeting, Paul Rodgers reflected on some highlights of his year including welcoming new trustees and a new Chief Executive Officer.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING

No amendments were proposed and the minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2020 were agreed as a true record of that meeting, using online and telephone poll facilities. 79% of the votes cast were for the motion and 21% were abstentions. There were no votes against.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Paul Rodgers presented some of the highlights of the year from the Annual Report, and drew members' attention to the detailed Annual Review that had appeared in the autumn 2021 edition of *Waterways* magazine. He noted the success of the Festival of Water at Worcester, the Association's first major event since the easing of Covid restrictions. Paul Rodgers noted that the inland waterways had been a much busier place during the previous twelve months with the restrictions of overseas travel and suggested that this provided opportunities for the Association. He drew members' attention to publication of the second heritage report, which included a number of case studies. He added recognition of Chester as the UK's first Heritage Port. Paul Rodgers concluded his speech reaffirming a proposed restructure of committee and staff posts into a 'One IWA' model that he hoped would enable volunteers and employees to work closer together.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

John Butler, chair of Finance Committee and National Treasurer, opened his speech by reflecting on the life and works of Ray Carter, who had recently passed away. Ray Carter had been a trustee for 30 years and, of those, 13 as national treasurer. His contribution to the Association had been immense. John Butler then introduced the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the twelve months to 31st December 2020. He noted that new auditors had been appointed and reflected on the continuing challenges of remote working, and especially conduct of the audit and additional work that had caused staff. He then introduced Genevieve Wilson, Finance Manager, who gave an overview of the figures contained in the Financial Statements.

Genevieve Wilson reported that the year had seen a deficit of about £282k on a

consolidated turnover of £1.4 million. Covid restrictions had meant that a number of fund raising activities had been unable to take place, which impacted some income and associated expenditure, but the major reason for reduced income had been a drop in legacies from the level of the previous year. Essex Waterways Ltd had another successful year, but all funds generated on the Navigation were re-invested in the waterway. At year-end the Association had total funds of just over £2.5 million of which just over half this balance was held in restricted funds. John Butler, Genevieve Wilson and Paul Rodgers then invited questions on the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The meeting approved a resolution to receive the Annual Report and audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021, using online and telephone poll facilities. 94% of the votes cast were for the motion and 6% were abstentions. There were no votes against.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The meeting approved a resolution to reappoint Sayer Vincent as auditors to the Association and to authorise trustees to determine the auditors' remuneration. 95% of the votes cast were for the motion and 5% were abstentions. There were no votes against.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Paul Rodgers introduced Dave Chapman, a deputy national chairman, who would conduct the appointment of trustees resolution. Dave Chapman began by thanking Nicki Schiessel Harvey, Roger Stocker and Helen Whitehouse, retiring trustees, and also thanked Ivor Caplan and Philippa Bursey who had both resigned as trustees in late 2020 after the previous AGM. He explained the process by which the vacancies had been assessed, applications had been reviewed by a selection committee and their recommendations approved by the Board.

Four candidates were put forward for election: Robert Atkins, John Butler, Rebecca Hughes and Hannah Sterritt. Each candidate was voted on individually, with each receiving over 90% of votes in favour of their appointment. Paul Rodgers confirmed that all four candidates were duly appointed as trustees, and that this concluded the formal business of the meeting.

PRESENTATION FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Paul Rodgers introduced Phil Hornsey who then gave a presentation on how he saw IWA's future following his appointment as CEO seven months previous to the meeting. Phil introduced his plans for a focus on income generation and gave examples of opportunities available to the Association, some of which had arisen as a consequence in change of behaviours brought about by Covid restrictions. He noted that IWA membership numbers had not improved from this increased use of the waterways and that pieces of work were to be carried out to review the Association's role and purpose, IWA's promotions and engagement strategy, and its campaigns strategy.

TRUSTEE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Phil Hornsey then introduced a Question and Answer session, and invited attendees to put forward questions to himself and trustees. A wide range of questions were put and comments raised. Trustees and the CEO provided answers where they could and promised to follow up where further action was needed. Paul Rodgers thanked

members for their questions.

CLOSING REMARKS

Paul Rodgers reiterated his thanks to the trustees, staff and supporters and gave a final word of thanks to all attendees and members for their support of the Association.

The meeting closed at about 1.30 pm.