



Inland Waterways Association – Warwickshire Branch

49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 19th April 2024

“The White Lion”, Radford Semele

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 AGM and any matters arising.
3. Report from the Branch Chairman
4. Financial Report from the Treasurer
5. Elections to the Committee
 - a) Members completing three years in post and eligible for re-election
 - b) Members co-opted since the previous AGM
 - c) Any other candidates
6. Any resolutions requested by members of the Branch (provided the Branch Chairman was notified in writing of the item at least two weeks prior to the AGM)
7. Discussion about the future of the Branch. Please have some thoughts and ideas ready.
8. Any Other Business.

Warwickshire branch AGM
21st March 2023 – virtual

Present:-

Colin Charman – Chair; Sheila Bell – Treasurer; Robert Nash; Muriel Richardson; Alan Richardson; Carole Nicholson; Nick Nicholson; Clive Henderson; Helen Henderson; Adrian Bell; Pam Fletcher; Ian Fletcher; Greta Russell – resigning secretary; Bill Acres; Helen Whitehouse – regional chair.

1. Apologies:-

Richard and Jackie Sanders; Pat and Ann Rudeck; Stephen Burt;

2. Approval of AGM minutes 2022

Only note was missing comment that Roger Clay offered to watch planning applications for the Stratfor District otherwise approved

Proposed – Clive Henderson

Seconded – Nick Nicholson

3. Chairs Report

Colin spoke of expecting doom and gloom due to the way numbers have dropped off since covid. During the covid period when talks went on line attendance went up to 60 or 70 but since then they have been unable to even get anyone to book speakers. Colin himself explained how his quite serious health issues mean he cannot take on anything else and so support is needed from branch members if the branch is to keep going. He asked people to think about what they want from the branch in the future.

Colin also spoke of their issues of getting CRT and the new Volunteer manager in their area to even communicate with them not they are running work parties in the area and taking volunteers across. Colin went to introduce himself to their volunteer manager who virtually dismissed him and then made contact once to ask to loan the branches grappling hooks and say IWA volunteers could join them but gave 2 weeks' notice, so few were available. No contact since despite Colins efforts. Helen, who was on her way back from the CRT user Forum group said they were not the only one voicing this concern, Helen also mentioned the meeting IWA CEO and Chair had both had with Rob Parry recently but had no details available at present.

Colin also mentioned the Leamington canal festival, the lady organising it had spoken to Colin, and he had shared the detail of contacts at CRT with her and she has now gone to them and they are leading on the event and so she said she no longer requires IWA branches assistance.

Colin thanked Clive and Roger for their work on the planning applications, and said luckily it has been a quiet year for applications that could have any effect on the waterways.

Colin had referred a lady who is interested in restoring the Brinklow arm to Ivor Caplan who is now working with her.

4. Treasurer's Report

Sheila reported an income of £100 from attending an event and £50 from IWA for a new member. For expenditure last year they had given three donations and final amount in budget was £1634.39

Going forward into this year already they had given out 7 donations of £100 to

- a) Grantham who responded to say thank you it will go to work on locks 13 and 14
- b) Cotswold Canal had sent thanks
- c) Stratford who are using it towards concrete pads on relining
- d) Lichfield and Hatherton as a thank you are offering a tour
- e) Wendover
- f) Lapal
- g) Neath and Tennant

A discussion was then held around the form of banking due to the charges for the present style of account that Barclays are making at £9 a month per account IWA hold. Three options were discussed stay as are; online banking; office held.

The group concluded preference to online and Sheila is to start the process.

Proposed Carole Nicholson

Seconded Colin Carman

5. Elections to the committee

None of the committee at present are at their three-year limit and other than Greta are happy to continue. Carole Nicholson resigned off the committee.

Secretary role thus became vacant and after a discussion of what the role entailed Clive Henderson stepped up and offered.

Proposed Sheila Bell

Seconded Ian Richardson

The two planning officers are agreeable to continuing their role.

6. Any other business

None received

7. Future of the branch

Colin then opened a discussion on what the members wanted form their branch, was it just socials and if so what sort and how many. A couple of pub meals had gone well and another was planned. Adrian Bell mentioned that Northampton branch had started to meet in the day as due to the age of many members they don't necessarily wish to go out in an evening in the cold and dark so is it worth trying a couple of afternoon talks? Helen suggested they look on the website at other branch newsletters and see what talks they have had and contact the secretary for details of speaker. Jenny mentioned lowland rescue as speakers which then reminded Robert of an RNLI talk he had been to once. If people can follow up their ideas and link in to the new secretary and Colin that would be useful.

Colin also explained IWA head office had sent out a plan map of where their members are based, and many are actually not in the area probably due to membership where their boat is moored rather than their home status.

Clive then proposed a vote of thanks for the hard work, Colin has put in over the years to keep the branch going.

Meeting closed at 20.45