

MINUTES OF THE MSCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE STOCKPORT LABOUR CLUB

1. Members present

Robert Twigg (RT), Roger Bravey (RB), Margaret Pollard (MP), Fay Bravey (FB), David Sumner (DS), Liz Watson (LW), Peter Burns (PB), Margaret Burns (MB), John Palmer (JP), Julian Hardstone (JH), Stephen Broadhead (SB). Apologies - Patrick O'Herlihy, Mike Chase, Gwen Scott, Peter Scott, Brian Evans, Bill Bates.

David Sumner (Chair) welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the AGM 10 October 2015

Agreed as a correct record; any matters arising can be brought up during the meeting.

3. Annual Reports

Chair – DS is moving to Valencia on 19.10.16; we've had a reasonable year; two reports by Manchester University; we've made contacts via the Benefit Study to back-up the restored canal (Note - copies can be emailed to members who don't have the report); Fun Days arranged by Graham Burns have been very useful; Peter Scott is optimistic about the situation; we need to persuade United Utilities to assist in the development; new volunteers have been found for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer; additional membership needs to be encouraged.

Secretary – PS had emailed a written annual report to members and this was welcomed.

Membership – RT noted the list that PS had sent us and these individuals will need to be followed up for 2016 subscriptions.

Website maintenance – this is being updated by LW; it was originally developed by Bill Bates but there have been some problems with updates.

Fun Days – GB will try and continue these despite current health problems; the next is 25 September in North Reddish Park. He will keep the display items and do events when he can. It is important to encourage local residents to support restoring the canal.

4. Annual Accounts

RT circulated spreadsheets for the Main Account and 100 Club and commented that the figures are not yet finalised for the last financial year and therefore not ready to be approved as such. They are more for information on the current funds available in our two Nat West bank accounts, though also don't reflect an amount which we think is held in a HSBC bank account that we are still trying to access; PS/GS are still working on this, and to assist the process DS countersigned a letter to the HSBC bank that Peter had prepared. This will need some others to sign as well.

He commented on particular items in the spreadsheets and discussion followed.

MB asked about the 9 plaques we had purchased; 5 had already been installed and 4 waiting for agreement; there was reference to Aspinall School where we might be able to place another one though we'd need to buy another plaque; GB noted the other locations; there was also reference to one needed for Hyde Road but there was uncertainty about where this plaque currently is. Survey maps had been purchased but more will be needed to confirm the line of a restored canal; RB noted the use of the current ones to prove the former canal line; he's been following up on this and has been able to acquire additional information on the levels.

RT noted the limited number of people currently paying into the 100 Club and making donations, and we need to expand both of these if we are to fund the purchase of further plaques and maps as discussed. He noted that John Bradshaw had recently donated £100 towards planning maps and this was noted with thanks.

Members noted the accounts as presented and RT will circulate updated versions when the figures are finalised. RT commented that in due course we need to identify an independent person to 'audit' the figures.

5. Election of two new officers

Secretary – Patrick O'Herlihy; Treasurer – Robert Twigg. Proposed by GB, Seconded by MB.

6. Election of Chairman

Roger Bravey. Proposed by DS, Seconded by RT. RB took over the chair at this point.

7. Resolution to appoint new signatories to bank accounts

It was agreed that the new officers, Roger Bravey, Patrick O'Herlihy and Robert Twigg should be the signatories for the bank accounts.

The following model resolution is required by the Nat West to continue the accounts and accept the changes to signatories as set out in various forms that have/are being supplied to the bank:

"It was resolved that:

- *The signing rules in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be replaced in accordance with section 4; and/or*
- *The authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with section 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended".*

8. 100 Club Draw

RT had received the raffle tickets from Gwen Scott and confirmed that he'd checked the numbers against the bank statements. As before, there are 3 prizes at £50 each. DS drew out the following:

No.11 - Mike Chase; 10 - Mike Chase; 20 - David Sumner (who donated the prize back into funds).

9. Future projects and future of the society

RB commented that the new officers are still finding their feet. MSCS had recent meetings with council officers and councillors in Stockport and Manchester. The proposed opening of Gorton Marina appears to create interest in Manchester Council. PS has contacted United Utilities. These will be the situations to progress over the next months and years. We would need agreement on water use with other users including the sailing club who are separate from Manchester Council.

Stephen Broadhead commented on contacts he had made and these will be followed up by the new Chair. It was agreed that it's important any discussions about the possible future of the canal are cleared by the Chair first to avoid any mixed messages.

Other issues for future discussion include the rail line; it was noted that Network Rail are not the easiest organisation to deal with.

A question was asked about the relationship with Stockport Council and it was noted that a meeting had been held with the relevant Executive member, Cllr Kate Butler, who is also a Reddish North councillor. There are some obstructions to overcome in the Reddish area but RB noted there could be some flexibilities about these.

DS asked JP about the reaction of the WRG to future developments and he commented there is a can-do attitude, but obviously it depends on what will be required; GB welcomed the connection with WRG. RB noted that some problems are more difficult than others to solve.

MB noted that when all the plaques are in place perhaps we can arrange another Walk and other events and this was agreed. RB said he will be attending various events and will speak up about the canal.

One the future of the Society itself, RT referred to the structure of the MSCS Council as set out by PS in his recent email and it was agreed to continue this as shown with the new officers and including MB as vice chair. It was noted again that we need to encourage membership and 100 Club participants if we are to fund the things discussed today.

10. Any other business

SB asked about the plans noted in the annual report by PS with regards to other developments and would like to be kept informed of any such developments because they may assist his interest in the former underground canals in Manchester. There was discussion about these other developments but it seems there is little additional information available at this stage.

MB moved that we send a vote of thanks to PS and GS for their great efforts over many years as Secretary and Treasurer, and also record our thanks to DS again for his invaluable role as Chair.

Various members paid their membership and made donations and RT will acknowledge these in due course.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm.