**DERBY AND SANDIACRE CANAL TRUST**

**Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Tuesday November 28th 2023 at 7.30pm

Held at the Canal Cottages Draycott

**Present:**  Chris Madge (Chairman)

David Savidge

Paul Turner

Mike Snaith

Derek Troughton (Treasurer)

Anne Madge (Secretary)

18 other members attended.

**Apologies:** Chris ReesFitzPatrick

Alan Jeffries

Dave and Carol Wood

Dave and Carol Eley

Chris Madge welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

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| **Item** | **Minute** | **Action** |
| 1 | **Adoption of the Minutes of the last AGM**  The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted unanimously, proposed by Gary Harding and seconded by Mike Snaith. |  |
| 2 | **Matters Arising**  Any matters arising will be covered in the reports. |  |
| 3 | **Treasurers Report**  Derek presented the annual accounts, up to the end of March 2023 and the current cash position for the Trust. His report is attached.  He identified one major change – because of advice we have been given, the net income of the cottages and café should be moved out of the Trading Company and into the Trust. The riverboat income will remain in the Trading Company account. This means that all income potentially liable to corporation tax will be held in the Trading Company and can legitimately avoid tax if it is gifted to the Trust. This has proved difficult to establish and incurred legal fees from solicitors.  The current cash position – total funds in the Trust account amount to £372,191.06.  The total funds in the Trading Company are £20,147.03.  Chris thanked Derek for all the effort he has put in this year, especially in the light of the extra challenges with the Trading Company and illness. |  |
| 4 | **Annual Accounts Adoption**  The accounts for the Trust and for the Trading company have been circulated prior to the meeting and are available on the website. Adoption of the accounts was moved.  Proposed Paul Turner  Seconded Sarah Cresswell  Carried unanimously. |  |
| 5 | **Reappointment of the Registered Accountants – CA Plus**  There have been a few issues with the accountants this year. Although it took a long time to get through this year, next year the accounts will be simpler. CA Plus are a not-for-profit organisation and a charity and they cost less than half of anyone else. Derek recommended staying with them.  Proposed Chris Madge  Seconded Paul Turner  Carried unanimously |  |
| 6 | **Chairman’s Report**  Chris gave a presentation covering what has happened over the past year. His report is attached. |  |
| 7 | **Trust Priorities for 2024**  Paul has been working on **acquiring land around Breaston**. He is in discussion with Sustrans to buy the canal bed to the east of Hopwell Road. This has taken 2 years, and he is very close to concluding the deal. The land will include the Hopwell Road winding hole. There will be potential to dig this out, which will help to alleviate flooding in the area.  Paul suggested **building towpaths through Breaston** to encourage more people to use the canal line eastwards beyond the Navigation. Apparently, funding is more readily available for towpaths and volunteers would prefer to build these than clear vegetation and it is important to maintain the canal line.  **The Draycott Golden Mile** dig out and water vole management remains a top priority.  The **Riverboat Pontoon** in Derby needs to be finished in 2024.  **Moving the sewer at Sandiacre Lock** continues to be a priority. We should receive a further £100k in funding from section 106 money and Chris noted that the new leader of Erewash Borough Council and his group are very supportive.  **Pride Park – the Derby Arm** and Derby city developments.  **Chellaston** – keeping contact with developers and progressing conversations with the key landowners.  The Trust is also looking to develop partnerships with Severn Trent and Network Rail to attract major funding for our help in delivery of resilience to prevent more flooding around Draycott and Breaston and looking at the benefits a canal can deliver such as transfer of water, effectively using climate change impacts to our advantage.  David Savidge raised the issue of water flow management at Draycott and explained we needed to control the bullrushes, this may need to be done from a boat. There will be a need to look at practical issues, where to keep one etc. He is looking at this with the Working parties teams.  Gary Harding explained that membership has fallen slightly recently, but is still around the 700 level. This is due to death of members and reduced promotion at public events since the pandemic. Given the increased activity this year we should see levels stabilising and delivery of projects will also assist. Chris Madge pointed to the increased involvement of existing members in our many activities already referred to in his report. |  |
| 8 | **Kate Birtles award**  Chris Madge explained that many members/volunteers had given so much this year that it was an even more difficult decision this year. The award was made to Peter Warmingham in recognition of his work over the past year. He is now producing the Packet, which has been made even more professional and readable, as well as publishing in the DE72 magazine for the Trust and liaising with other local organisations. The trophy was presented by Paul Birtles who also explained why the award was named after his late wife, Kate. |  |
| 9 | **Appointment of Directors**  The directors required to resign by rotation were Chris Madge, Chris ReesFitzPatrick and Paul Turner. Each offered themselves for re-election.  Proposed Roger Ashmead  Seconded Mike Snaith  All were appointed by a unanimous vote.  Chris Madge asked the meeting if they were happy to accept a nomination from the floor by him. He nominated Chris Richardson as a director explaining that he had offered to support and shadow Derek as Treasurer.  Proposed Roger Ashmead  Seconded Gary Harding  Carried unanimously. |  |
| 10 | **Appointment of Officers**  Chairman Chris Madge  Vice Chairman Mike Wingfield  Treasurer Derek Troughton  Secretary Anne Madge  Proposed Paul Turner  Seconded Charlie Forbes  Carried unanimously. |  |
| 13 | **AOB**  Peter Ball asked if the directors could review and clarify the mowing policy, David said that this should be resolved next year. This year has been very wet. There is now a mowing policy on the website which is more wildlife friendly. Peter’s concern was noted, he was thanked for the work that he and the other volunteers do, and it will be reviewed at the director’s meeting.  Anne asked for more copy for social media.  David reported that 2990 working hours had been achieved by volunteers on working parties in 2023. He has 90 people on his email list and would like more to turn up in person.  The following speakers have been booked for next year’s members meetings.  January 23rd The life of James Brindley Cliff Lea  February 27th  The Friargate Line Keith Blood  March 27th The Woodland Trust Gerald Price  April 23rd The Ilkeston Tramway Stephen Flinders  May 28th The Carlisle Ship canal David Ramshaw  June 25th walk  Chris thanked all for their support and closed the meeting at 9.25pm |  |