

DERBY AND SANDIACRE CANAL TRUST

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday October 22nd 2024 at 7.30pm

Held at the Canal Cottages Draycott

Present: Chris Madge (Chairman)
David Savidge
Paul Turner
Mike Snaith
Chris ReesFitzPatrick
Chris Richardson
Kevin Miller
Don Olivant

Anne Madge (secretary)

18 other members attended.

Apologies: Steve Wood
Maz Clarke
Gary Harding
Peter Warmingham
Sarah and Martin Cresswell
Jackie Leeming
Brian Dale

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Adoption of the Minutes of the last AGM The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted unanimously, proposed by Kevin Miller and seconded by David Savidge.	
2	Matters Arising Any matters arising will be covered in the reports.	
3	Treasurers Report Chris Richardson started by recording a big thank you to Derek for settling him into the position. He presented the annual accounts, up to the end of March 2024 and the current cash position for the Trust. His report is attached.	
4	Annual Accounts Adoption The accounts have been circulated prior to the meeting and are available on the website. Adoption of the accounts was moved. Proposed Chris ReesFitzPatrick Seconded Paul Turner Carried unanimously.	
5	Reappointment of the Registered Accountants – CA Plus Our accountants this year have again been CA Plus. They are a not-for-profit organisation and a charity, and they cost less than half of anyone else.	

	Chris Richardson proposed staying with them, seconded by Charlie Forbes and carried unanimously.	
6	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Chris gave a presentation covering what has happened over the past year. This is attached.</p> <p>Paul Turner added to the report by reminding us that Rotary were very involved in setting up the project. The Trust's aim is to try and get ownership of the whole route from various landowners. Recently the section from Hopwell Road towards Breaston has been purchased from Sustrans and a local farmer, including an important ransom strip which could have blighted the entire project. He is negotiating with Sustrans for further sections towards the Navigation pub in Breaston and emphasised the need to be thinking about replacing trees and managing spoil.</p> <p>Chris Madge also thanked the crews for their support with the riverboat, the final outings will be this weekend then it will return to the winter moorings. Its purpose is to make us visible in the city centre. We are doing a survey of passengers and have received very positive comments.</p> <p>Chris answered a question from the floor as to why the quote for moving the sewer at Sandiacre Lock is so expensive (headline £450k). He explained that we have taken out any work that our volunteers will be able to do already, but we cannot get competitive quotes as work on large sewers near water has to be undertaken by STW contractors under current legislation. He is confident that we can reduce the headline cost, by "discussion". This will start next week.</p> <p>There was also a question about the Golden Mile at Draycott – it is not possible to give a definite date for the work to be completed but we are in talks with Network rail and Severn Trent. The former may deliver in 2026, the latter would be after 2030.</p> <p>It was noted that there may be an opportunity for donors who might be trying to avoid the predicted increase in inheritance tax, but there is little time before the planned budget. The directors will consider an approach to legacies and inheritance tax avoidance over the next few months. Any donation to a charity such as ourselves can avoid a liability to IHT. The Trust has hired the fundraiser from Treetops for 4 days work on the pontoon funding. She also has experience promoting legacy donations. We are now looking to actively raise funds, and also thinking about corporate sponsors, but these provide benefits over the longer term rather than for current projects.</p>	Board
7	<p>Kate Birtles award</p> <p>David Savidge outlined the tremendous support that the Trust had received from Charlie Forbes in his constant support of the working parties, transporting equipment and helping at events and even joining the forestry team. The trophy was presented to him by Paul Birtles.</p>	
8	<p>Trust Priorities for 2025</p> <p>Sandiacre – pushing for a start in the spring</p> <p>Pontoon – pushing for installation in by March/April 2025, bureaucracy permitting.</p> <p>To keep working at Draycott, the Golden Mile, and clearing the land east of Hopwell Road and the winding hole.</p>	
	<p>Appointment of Directors</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution the following directors have resigned: Val Clare and Mike Snaith. Kevin will speak to Val Clare.</p> <p>Mike Snaith has offered himself for re-election.</p>	

	<p>The AGM was asked to ratify the appointment of Chris Richardson as a director, who became a director at the invitation of the Trust Board.</p> <p>Proposed by Chris ReesFitzPatrick</p> <p>Seconded by Charlie Forbes</p> <p>Carried unanimously.</p>	
10	<p>Appointment of Officers</p> <p>Chairman Chris Madge</p> <p>Vice Chairman Mike Wingfield</p> <p>Treasurer Chris Richardson</p> <p>Secretary Anne Madge</p> <p>Proposed David Savidge</p> <p>Seconded Mike Snaith</p> <p>Carried unanimously.</p>	
13	<p>AOB</p> <p>David recorded a big thank you to all the volunteers at the working parties and reported that 2700-man hours had been achieved in 2024. The volunteers include Roger with his tree felling team, Peter Ball with the tractor and Don and Tony at the cottages.</p> <p>Anne agreed to book a programme of speakers for next year's members meetings and would like suggestions of speakers and any support available. Mike Wingfield will speak about the plans for Derby City Centre at the next meeting on November 26th.</p> <p>Paul asked to record a vote of thanks for Chris Madge for all his work during the year.</p> <p>Chris thanked all for their support and closed the meeting at 8.55pm</p>	